

EU2022.CZ, ECONOMY, POLICY AND STRATEGY

For your notes

CZ PRES reached preliminary agreement on product safetyTuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Presidency reached a preliminary political agreement between the European Council and the European Parliament (EP) on the General Product Safety Regulation (GPSR), which is intended to ensure the sale of products that meet European standards. The regulation will help reduce the number of unsafe products sold both online and in brick-and-mortar stores. The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic informed about this, stating that it is thus fulfilling other priorities in the field of consumer protection within the framework of CZ PRES. The provisional political agreement still needs to be formally approved by the Council and the EP. ■

P. Fiala: EU states have agreed on joint arms purchases

Saturday, November 26 | ČIANEWS

The EU Member States, under the Czech Presidency of the Council of the EU (CZ PRES), have agreed on a regulation to ensure support for joint purchases of military equipment. The agreed standard aims to encourage states to make joint purchases in light of the supply of equipment to Ukraine. Prime Minister Petr Fiala (ODS) said that the regulation will ensure faster modernisation and better defence capability of European armies. He considers this very important in the current situation. ■

EC adopted strategy for drone market developmentTuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has adopted the European Strategy for Drones 2.0, which sets out a vision for the further development of the EU drone market. The material is based on the safety framework of the European Union for the operation of drones and for establishing related technical requirements. The paper outlines how Europe can secure commercial drone operations while offering new opportunities for the industry. ■

ÚOHS monitors anti-competitive behaviour on energy marketsFriday, November 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The turmoil that the energy market has been experiencing over the past two years may lead to a strengthening of the big players in the market. Petr Mlsna, the chairman of the Office for the Protection of Competition, said that the Office is ready to intervene if it detects any sign of anti-competitive behaviour. The Office has issued a material explaining what is happening on the energy markets in terms of competition, public procurement and public aid. It looks at the measures taken by the EU and the Czech government to prevent the most dramatic effects of the energy crisis on consumers and businesses through regulatory intervention. ■

MF: Leaders of TAL consortium approve pipeline extensionWednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Coordinating Committee, the supreme body of the TAL consortium, approved on November 30, 2022, the intensification of the TAL pipeline in Austria, called TAL+. The Czech Republic is represented in TAL by MERO ČR, which holds a 5% stake in the consortium. The TAL+ pipeline modifications will be completed by 2025. The Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic (MF) informed that the Czech Republic will be fully prepared for the possibility of a complete stoppage of Russian oil supplies. ■

Association of Developers joins Build Europe as memberTuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Association of Developers of the Czech Republic became a member of the umbrella European union Build Europe. The goal is closer cooperation in the field of European legislation and standards and the sharing of good practice with other members. Build Europe is an association of national developers and house builders that represents more than 30,000 developers and builders from 10 states. ■

DLA Piper: AI used by 85% of construction firms in EuropeThursday, November 24 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

More than four in five (85%) construction executives in Europe expect material prices to rise in the next 18 months. The same percentage of executives have incorporated artificial intelligence (AI), robotics and analytics software into project preparation processes. 79% have implemented AI technologies to automate ordering, payment, invoicing and delivery tracking. The report by global law firm DLA Piper also shows that 47% of executives expect their investment in digital technology to increase significantly over the next two years. Projects with flexible pricing arrangements are a priority for 54% of executives. 82% of construction executives are committed to reducing the carbon footprint of their operations and supply chains. ■

ACEA: China is leader in BEV sales, by 2030 it will be Europe

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

China recorded the highest year-on-year growth in sales of fully electric vehicles (BEVs) between January and September 2022 (89.4%), with 2.9 million vehicles sold. In the EU, EFTA and UK region, sales reached 1 million cars (25.7%) and in the US, sales were over 500,000. This is according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA), which shows that Europe will see a recovery in 2025 and will become the world leader in the BEV segment by 2030. ■

Unemployment in CR down to 2.3%

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The share of the employed persons in the total population of the Czech Republic in the 15-64 age group increased by 1.0 pp y/y to 75.8% in October 2022. The unemployment rate fell by 0.2 pp to 2.3%. The unemployment rate for men was 2.0% and for women 2.6%. The data were published by the Czech Statistical Office (ČSÚ). The share of the economically active to the population in the 15-64 age group rose by 0.8 pp to 77.5%. ČSÚ sends the data to Eurostat, which uses them to compile unemployment reports for EU Member States, but for the 15-74 age group. The unemployment rate for this age group was 2.1% for the Czech Republic. ■

Government departments suspend cooperation with Russia

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Representatives of government departments at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MZV) discussed the review of relations with Russia. The participants confirmed that they were interested in continuing cooperation to the extent necessary in the areas of social security, taxation, justice, and police, among others. On the other hand, military, economic, industrial, scientific and technical, administrative, and cultural cooperation was suspended. Deputy Foreign Minister Martin Dvořák (STAN) said that not only the Czech Republic but also the EU is facing an escalation of Russia's hybrid action and this Eastern European state is a source of serious threats and risks. ■

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

Senate passes emergency windfall tax

Thursday, November 24 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 24 2022, the Senate approved a tax package that, among other things, introduces a so-called windfall tax based on the parameters of EU regulations. The bill will now go to the president for his signature. The tax would apply from January 1, 2023, for three years (i.e. 2023-2025) to exceptionally profitable companies in the energy production and trading, banking, petroleum, and fossil fuel extraction and processing sectors. The windfall tax will operate as a 60% tax surcharge on companies' excess profits, determined as the difference between the tax base in 2023-2025 and the average of the tax bases over the last four years, plus 20%. The Ministry of Finance expects revenue of about CZK 85bn in 2023. Another CZK 15bn should be generated next year due to the EU price caps for electricity producers. ■

Government approved extension of protection for Ukrainians

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Refugees from Ukraine who fled to the Czech Republic from Russian aggression and obtained temporary protection here will have the option of extending it until March 31, 2024. This is made possible by the package of laws Lex Ukraina IV, which was approved by the government of the Czech Republic on November 30, 2022. The amendments to the laws also bring other changes that will affect the stay of Ukrainian refugees in the Czech Republic. The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic informed about this, stating that the Czech Republic has so far provided temporary protection to 463,804 people. ■

EC presented 2 proposals for industrial design protection

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has submitted new proposals for regulations and directives to the European Parliament and the Council, which should make the protection of industrial designs in the EU cheaper, faster and more predictable. The revised rules are also intended to help improve the conditions for business innovation. At the same time, the rules introduce a more balanced approach to the protection of industrial designs to ensure, for example, reproduction for car spare parts, which will give consumers more choice when repairing complex products. ■

EC wants to limit plastic waste with new rules

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) is proposing new rules for packaging, which should no longer be a growing source of consumer waste. Each European produces an average of almost 180 kg of packaging waste per year. Packaging is one of the main uses of primary materials, with 40% of plastic and 50% of paper used in the EU going to packaging. The new rules are intended to stop this trend and ensure that companies offer reusable packaging and stop using unnecessary packaging. At the same time, they will introduce labeling to facilitate proper recycling. ■

For your notes

EC approves Czech Strategic Plan for CAP

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has approved the Czech Strategic Plan for the Common Agricultural Policy for the period 2023-2027. The main objective of the plan is to target support in the form of direct payments more effectively. The Czech Ministry of Agriculture (MZe) announced that a total of CZK 200bn will be available in the coming years. A significant change is the introduction of 23% support for the first hectares. This payment will be for the first 150 ha of all farms. The plan will support organic farmers, farming in unfavourable conditions (mountains, etc.), young farmers and job creation. The ministry will now finalise the implementing regulations, i.e. the regulations to be submitted to the government for approval. ■

SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

MD to spend CZK 22.8bn on transport development

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Transport (MD) has announced three calls for so-called metropolitan areas and agglomerations to support urban transport telematics and the development of urban rail transport infrastructure. The total allocation amounts to CZK 22.8bn. The calls are continuous and will be open for applicants until June 30, 2024. The ministry will also support the construction of hydrogen filling stations with CZK 300m from the Operational Programme Transport 2021-2027 (OPD3). The maximum rate of support is 85%. In total, the ministry has allocated CZK 6bn for measures to support alternative fuel infrastructure under OPD3. ■

NKÚ: MPSV supported families with CZK 9m, no aid overview

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The state budget and EU funds of almost CZK 9bn allocated by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for family policy have only partially contributed to supporting families. An investigation by the Supreme Audit Office (NKÚ) also found that MPSV did not have an overview of how the money from the Operational Programmes Family and Employment actually helped people in need. In response to the findings, the ministry said it did not agree with NKÚ's criticisms. The ministry objected to the finding that it had not complied with the Financial Control Act. According to its statement, deficiencies were found in only six cases out of 331 projects in the sample audited. ■

CEEC: MD plans constructions at D11, D6 and D35

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Currently, 247 km of motorway and road projects are under construction in the Czech Republic. By the end of 2022, another 20 km of motorways and 22 km of sections of Class I roads should be under construction. This is according to CEEC Research's Q4/2022 Quarterly Analysis of the Czech Construction Industry. Transport Minister Martin Kupka (ODS) added that in 2023, construction of D11 between Trutnov and the state border, a new section of D6 and D35 will continue with the construction of D3 towards the Austrian border. Among other things, the optimisation of the line between Karlštejn and Beroun, the reconstruction of the Prague-Smíchov railway station, and the modernisation and completion of the Masaryk railway station are to be launched. Projects for the introduction of the European standard ETCS signalling system are also being prepared. ■

GZ Media produced 40 million records, turnover CZK 4.7bn

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

GZ Media manufactured over 40m vinyl records in 2021. The result was driven by high demand and investment in production. The annual report also shows that net sales increased y/y from CZK 3.84bn to CZK 4.69bn. Profit after tax reached CZK 656.13m. The company completed the reconstruction of the CD building in Loděnice, which will be used only for printing production. In the Hýskov facility, it combines the warehouse of materials and components with the production of finishing of printed materials for the non-media industry. It wants to further develop this segment. The aim is to build one of the most modern plants for the production of printed matter and laminated packaging in the Central European region. ■

ČD starts test operation with ETCS

Friday, November 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech Railways (ČD) started on November 25, 2022, test operation in electric traction under the supervision of the European Train Control System ETCS on the line from Olomouc to Uničov. Jiří Jeřeta, Member of the Board of Directors and Deputy for Passenger Transport, said that ČD must complete the preparation in an extremely short time so that it is ready to operate on this line in exclusive operation under the supervision of the ETCS system from January 1, 2023. The test operation will be provided on up to six lines per day and by the end of the year ČD should have more than 100 trained drivers. The national carrier is extending the ETCS trial operation to other lines of the Railway Administration. ■

Testbed for Industry 4.0 opened at CEITEC VUT

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The experimental laboratory Testbed for Industry 4.0 was opened at CEITEC VUT (Central European Technology Institute of the Brno University of Technology) at a cost of ca. CZK 450m. Of this amount, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports spent approximately CZK 350m on investments and equipment and the EU provided CZK 100m for operations. Testbed is an industrial hall with a set of various robots, production machines and machining centres where production and equipment for the development of control and diagnostics of modern drives can be tested. It also offers automation facilities. VUT rector Ladislav Janíček added that the project will enable the integration of education, research and cooperation with industrial partners. ■

For your notes

Jičín secured CZK 59m from IROP for library renewal

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The city of Jičín received a subsidy from the Integrated Regional Operational Program (IROP) for the overall reconstruction of the Václav Čtvrtek Library. Subsidy support will be in the amount of CZK 59.73m, the city's participation is CZK 10.54m. The amount of costs and the contractor of the works will result from a public contract, the announcement of which will be prepared by the city office. Implementation of the project Building modifications and extension of the Václav Čtvrtek Library in Jičín is expected from September 2023. It will last until the end of 2025. ■

STČ to create reserve for energy; loans to cover deficit

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Central Bohemia regional council (STČ) approved the budget for 2023. It expects revenues of over CZK 42bn (+17.6 % compared to 2022) and expenditures of over CZK 45bn (+12.1 %). The budget reflects expected moderate economic growth, a high rate of inflation and rising energy prices. Tax revenues will increase by around 19 %. The region is counting on the creation of specific reserves to cover probable expenses, including a further possible increase in energy prices, an increase in fuel for transporters or an increase in traction energy. The difference between expenses and income is covered by the involvement of bank loans and the balance from last year in the amount of CZK 10m. ■

Pilulka opens pharmacy in Olomouc; expands to Austria

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Pilulka Group has opened the largest brick-and-mortar pharmacy in the Czech Republic in Olomouc, with an area of over 3,600 m². It offers more than 400,000 medicines, nutrition supplements and products for health and healthy lifestyle. The operation of the pharmacy is adapted to mail order and will serve customers from all over Moravia with delivery on the day of order. Pilulka's chief operating officer Michal Hanáček added that the company plans to enter the Austrian market in early December 2023 under the name Pilulka.at. The new logistics centre will be the springboard for the expansion. Martin Kasa, co-founder of Pilulka, added that the investment amounted to tens of millions of crowns. The new location will also feature Pilulka Boxes and the possibility of delivering purchases with the Pilulka Express service to the clients' doorstep. ■

ŠKODA PARS invested CZK 34m into hall

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA PARS, a member of the Škoda Transportation group, reported sales of CZK 1.57bn in 2021 (+CZK 103.31m year-on-year). Profit after taxation increased by CZK 37.1m to CZK 150.31m. The rolling stock manufacturer also stated in its annual report that it invested CZK 93.27m in new buildings and production technologies. Among the most significant is the technical evaluation of the main production hall (CZK 34m). The company has created a reserve of CZK 63.42m for environmental risks. 3.1 % of the company's sales were realized in Russia and Ukraine, and the management assessed the risks of the conflict in Ukraine as minimal. To strengthen competitiveness, the company spends resources on innovations of existing and new products. In 2021, among other things, the development and production project for the modernization of special vehicles, the so-called MVT2 081, continued. ■

Global Payments launched SoftPOS, profit up to CZK 912m

Saturday, November 26 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Global Payments Europe increased its profit for 2021 to 912.41m from CZK 515.93m in the previous period. Fee and commission income rose to CZK 13.9bn from CZK 13.02bn. In its annual report, the provider of payment products and services informed that it has launched Tap on Phone (SoftPOS) solution, whereby acceptance of Mastercard and VISA contactless payments is possible on an Android phone with NFC chip. The company also implemented the delivery of a new type of payment terminals for an international network of petrol stations for the acceptance of payment and fleet cards with P2P encryption solution (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland). Global Payments Europe also said that at the end of the year it started cooperation with new major customers in Slovakia. In July 2022, the company sold a substantial interest in Equifax Russia LLC. ■

CPIPG buyouts over 198 million shares for EUR 190.34m

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Property developer CPI Property Group (CPIPG) has completed the share buyback pursuant to the November 9, 2022 tender offer. The company bought back 198.07 million shares for EUR 190.34m (EUR 0.961 per share). CPIPG intends to cancel the repurchased shares through a capital reduction at the next Annual General Meeting. As a result of these transactions, the company now directly owns 2.22% of the 8.90 billion shares outstanding. On a consolidated basis, it controls approximately 2.98% stake. ■

RegioJet will introduce electric trans PESA Elf in ÚLK

Wednesday, November 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From December 11, 2022, RegioJet will gradually deploy seven new PESA Elf.eu low-floor electric traction trainsets on regional connections in the Ústí nad Labem Region (ÚLK). The vehicles are supplied by the Polish company PESA Bydgoszcz. The total value of the tender exceeds CZK 500m. RegioJet owner Radim Jančura added that the operation of the new electric trains will be more economical and environmentally friendly. In addition to the national signalling system, the vehicles are also equipped with the European ETCS system, which the Railway Administration plans to use on special lines after 2025. ■

For your notes

ČEZ to supply 2,080 solar panels to Congress Center

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ČEZ has launched the construction of a photovoltaic power plant on the roof of the Prague Congress Center (KCP). On an area of 7,000 m², 2,080 solar panels will be placed, saving KCP CZK 5.5m per year on electricity. The installed capacity of the power plant is 936 kWp. Photovoltaics will complement one of the largest energy saving projects implemented in the center by ENESA, a subsidiary of ČEZ ESCO. The project saved KCP CZK 32m in 2022. The construction of the photovoltaic power plant was started during the Czech Presidency of the European Union. GreenBuddies, a supplier of complete solutions for solar power plant projects, is also participating in the construction. KCP is the venue for informal meetings of the Council of the EU. ■

ORLEN Unipetrol posted PLN 2.62bn in net 1-3Q22 profits

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ORLEN Unipetrol reported a net profit of PLN 2.62bn for the first three quarters of 2022. The Polish parent company PKN Orlen informed about this in the financial report for 3Q 2022. ORLEN Unipetrol reported EBITDA of PLN 4.1bn and sales of PLN 29.91bn for the nine months of the year. The company processed 5,413 kt of oil. Fuel yield was 81 %. ■

RegioJet carried 7.7m passengers, posts record revenues

Friday, November 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

RegioJet registers an increase of almost 40% y/y to almost CZK 2bn in train transport revenues for 9M 2022. In bus transport, revenues rose to almost CZK 600m. This represents a doubling. The rail and bus operator reported that it achieved the highest revenues in the company's history. It carried up to a third more passengers: 7.7 million. Occupancy rates on trains and buses have reached a high level after the pandemic, exceeding 80%. The Prague-Amsterdam bus line is among the busiest (99%). ■

Kofola raised sales to CZK 2.3bn in Q3; EBITDA down

Thursday, November 24 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In Q3 2022, Kofola Group revenues exceeded CZK 2.3bn (+11% q/q). CEO Jannis Samaras noted the growing input costs reduced overall EBITDA by 10.5% to CZK 462.2m. Despite the decline, Kofola aims to meet the lower limit of the published EBITDA interval, i.e., CZK 1.08bn for the whole year. ■

EPH heating plants to raise heat price by 4.8%

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Thermal power plants belonging to Energetický a průmyslový holding (EPH) will increase the price of their production by 4.8% from January 1, 2023. Given inflation, this represents a reduction of around 10% in real prices, despite a significant increase in costs. This move was made possible by the capping of electricity producer prices and windfall profit taxes, which left some room for thermal power plants to make profits in the electricity sales segment. Daniel Častváj, EPH's communications director, added that if the European Commission accepted the Czech legislation and mitigated the impact of allowances on the heating industry, the company would immediately reflect this positive effect in heat prices. ■

TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

AV: Graphene aerogel can resist temperatures of 1500 °C

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A multidisciplinary team of physicists and chemists from the Institute of Physics of the Czech Academy of Sciences (AV) has developed a carbon material that can withstand flames up to 1500 °C. A millimetre of material is enough to shield such high temperatures. The new porous graphene aerogel temporarily resists various types of high-temperature flames, including the highly reactive hydrogen flame. By creating a special 3D porous structure, the researchers have succeeded in increasing the temperature resistance of graphene by 1000°C. °C. Atomically thin layers of carbon, i.e. graphene, normally show thermal stability in flames up to 550 °C. ■

VUT: Bracelet draws attention to Parkinson's risk

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Scientists from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Communication Technologies of the Brno University of Technology (VUT) have developed a special bracelet that will detect the first symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Using smart sensors, the device can monitor sleep, measure heart rate and estimate emotional state. The experts also promoted their idea within the European project niCe-life, which aims to develop digital tools for improving the quality of care for the elderly. VUT received the second highest budget and was thus able to develop the bracelet. niCe-life distributed a total of 2.1 million euros among the winning projects. ■

Moneta offers small businesses loan with EIF guarantee

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Moneta Money Bank is now offering small entrepreneurs and sole traders a Business Loan guaranteed by the European Investment Fund (EIF). It is intended for entrepreneurs whose business has been affected by rising energy prices. Applicants can use the loan for operations or investments related to energy savings (house insulation, boiler replacement or renovation, etc.) or for the acquisition of renewable energy sources (heat pumps, photovoltaic panels, etc.). The loan is currently offered at a rate of 6.9% pa. The maximum amount of a single loan is CZK 650,000. However, the applicant can take out several loans up to a total amount of CZK 1.3m. ■

For your notes

Zaslat.cz adds 6,000 Balíkovnas to network

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

With the integration of Balíkovna, the Zaslat.cz platform expands its network by almost 6,000 more outlets. In total, it has more than 6,500 collection and dispensing points. The platform's CEO Miroslav Michalko said that the goal is to offer customers the widest network of locations in the Czech Republic and in the future in Europe, already within 2023. Zaslat.cz cooperates with almost 20 carriers and customers send over 0.5 million parcels a year through this platform. The company wants to keep expanding the range of carriers and provide customers with the opportunity to send a parcel anywhere in the Czech Republic and abroad. ■

Sugar level monitoring sensor wins IKEM hackathon

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The winning idea of the fifth European Health Hackathon (EHH) 2022 was a subcutaneous sensor for monitoring sugar levels in diabetics. The event took place from November 25 to 27, 2022 at the Institute of Clinical and Experimental Medicine in Prague (IKEM). The second runner-up was a solution for early identification of chronic kidney disease based on data analysis. Third place went to an idea for an app that alerts healthcare professionals and the general public that someone nearby needs resuscitation. The hackathon was attended by 190 ethical hackers from the Czech Republic and other European countries. The winners split CZK 450,000 among themselves. ■

Shoptet expects Black Friday e-shop turnover up to CZK 5bn

Friday, November 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Shoptet expects Black Friday sales to increase by up to 37% y/y. The turnover by e-shops running on Shoptet could reach up to CZK 5bn. Sales will be made mainly in the clothing, cosmetics, electronics and toys segments. The CEO of the company providing comprehensive solutions for managing online stores, Samuel Huba, commented that Black Friday in 2022 should be the last time when artificial price bending and discounts calculated from the highest price ever can be observed. He added that in the future this will be prevented by the so-called Button Amendment, which is awaiting the President's signature. He believes that the norm will help straighten the market in favour of small and medium-sized traders and prevent discounts looking more tempting than they actually are. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

MIRRI SR: EUR 13bn from EU to support energy, digitization and ecology

Friday, November 25 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has approved the Slovakia Programme, under which Slovakia will receive almost EUR 13bn from the new EU funds. The money will go towards improving the lives of people in the regions, energy security, digitalisation and ecology. Slovak Ministry of Investment, Regional Development and Informatisation (MIRRI SR) announced that Slovakia is among the first six EU countries to have a complete programme approved for the new period. ■

MH SR: EC has no reservations to electricity price stabilisation

Thursday, December 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) notified the Slovak Ministry of Economy (MH SR) on November 28, 2022, that it has no objections to the measure to stabilise electricity prices for households, which results from the memorandum between MH SR, the Slovak Ministry of Finance and Slovenske elektrárne. The Ministry of Economy further informed that under the Memorandum, the parties committed to provide households with a cumulative amount of 6.15 TWh of electricity in 2023 at a price of EUR 61.2077/MWh of power electricity. ■

MŽP SR will support decarbonization of industry with EUR 357m

Monday, November 28 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak Ministry of the Environment (MŽP SR) announced a call for proposals aimed at decarbonisation of industry with a total allocation of more than EUR 357m. The aim is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 1.23 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. Projects that rely on solid fossil fuels or natural gas will not be supported. Exceptions are those where the share of natural gas in final consumption does not exceed 20%. Supported projects must meet BAT requirements and comply with EU standards. Applications can be submitted until January 20, 2023. ■

SBA: Special levy will hurt banking sector

Tuesday, November 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The re-taxation of banks in the form of a special levy will significantly limit the scope for lending, i.e. the support and growth of the Slovak economy in times of energy insufficiency, high inflation and geopolitical instability. The Slovak Banking Association (SBA) stated that the negative effect of the measures on the ability of the banking sector to have a stabilizing effect on the economy will be significantly more pronounced than its positive effects in the form of higher income to the state budget. Therefore, the SBA called on the National Council of the Slovak Republic not to approve the relevant law that introduces the levy. ■

For your notes