



## LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

### Nekula asks chains to increase share of Czech food items

Friday, July 29 | ČIA NEWS

In a letter to general directors of commercial chains, Minister of Agriculture Zdeněk Nekula (KDU-ČSL) asked sellers to include a higher share of food items produced in the Czech Republic. He emphasised that there were often identical products available in stores imported from abroad that were available from Czech production. He also asked the chains to let him know what steps to increase the share of domestic production they were preparing. ■

### TA ČR: EP to support international projects focused on sustainability

Friday, July 29 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

In September, researchers will be able to participate in the first international calls of two European Partnerships (EP) - Clean Energy Transition (CET) and Driving Urban Transitions (DUT). CET is announced by the JPP SES strategic network. It is focused on research in the field of energy transformation (clean energy). The DUT announced by the strategic network JPI Urban Europe supports projects helping cities in the transition to a more sustainable economy and functioning. The Technology Agency (TA ČR) further informed that the European Partnerships represent a new instrument of the Union program Horizon Europe. ■

## SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

### NRB supported firms with CZK 12.9bn

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Development Bank (NDB) provided support to businesses in H1 2022 with CZK 12.9bn in guaranteed or directly provided loans. A further CZK 232m was provided to travel agencies as a so-called participation guarantee. This is a 40% year-on-year increase in standard (i.e. non-covenant) support. NRB provided a further CZK 222m to regions, towns and municipalities for the construction of public infrastructure. Nearly 2,400 projects were supported, 90% of which were carried out by small enterprises. The NRB has seen the strongest demand for its Expansion Guarantee (CZK 7.5 billion) and Guarantee 2015 to 2023 (CZK 3bn) products. Interest in programmes to finance energy-saving projects increased by almost 40%. Businesses have already drawn down CZK 60m from them. Approximately 30 more applications are currently in the pipeline, amounting to almost CZK 100m. ■

### AMSP chatbot offers subsidy overview

Monday, August 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Association of Small and Medium-Sized Entrepreneurs and Tradesmen of the Czech Republic (AMSP) launched an extended version of its chatbot, which now offers entrepreneurs an overview of the options for obtaining subsidies. The Subsidy Advisor function is a signpost in support for business entities. The section contains two to three levels of questions, according to which sources of subsidies suitable for a specific business entity will be filtered. AMSP General Director Eva Svobodová said that the chatbot will offer financing options, a link to the website, or a tip on what to watch out for, based on the given data about the company. ■

### MŽP to spend CZK 1bn from NPO on municipal energy savings

Monday, August 1 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MŽP) allocated more than CZK 1bn from the National Renewal Plan (NPO) for municipalities for energy savings in public buildings. Municipalities can also use the funds for rainwater management or photovoltaics on roofs. Support in the order of tens of millions will also be distributed to environmental education, domestic waste water treatment plants or research and strengthening of drinking water sources. Minister Anna Hubáčková (for KDU-ČSL) said that today's energy crisis affects everyone without distinction. According to her, energy savings and the use of renewable resources represent reliable ways to reduce overall consumption. ■

### MMR to support libraries with almost CZK 950m from IROP

Friday, July 29 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

On July 28, 2022, the Czech Ministry of Regional Development (MMR) announced two calls for proposals from the 2021-2027 Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP). Both are focused on library development, digitalisation, expert infrastructure and equipment. Less developed regions can look forward to CZK 528m in the first call. In contrast, transitional regions can get over CZK 410m in the second call. Municipalities, organisations established or founded by municipalities, founders of basic libraries and others can submit their applications from July 28, 2022 to February 2, 2023. ■

### MV: Police to get CZK 900m from EU, also for cyber-crimes

Friday, July 29 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Police will get CZK 900m from the Operational Programme Internal Security Fund, managed by the Czech Ministry of the Interior (MV), to strengthen its specialised investigations, among other things into cyber-crimes. Police officers will use the funding in the 2021-2027 programming period. The programme's other fundamental objectives include strengthening international police cooperation in connection with terrorism and serious organised cross-border criminal activities, not only between EU member-state forces but also with third countries. ■

For your notes

## DODO starts delivering oversized consignments

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Technological and logistics company DODO has expanded its services with a two-man delivery for the distribution of oversized goods such as furniture, large electric appliances, bulky sporting goods and other goods that require larger vehicles and two couriers for delivery. The objective is to make a same-day delivery in a specific time window a market delivery standard. DODO chief commercial officer Peter Menky added that in Hungary, the company delivered sporting goods from the network of Hervis stores using two couriers and recorded interest of a whole range of other pan-European retail chains. If the new service in the Czech Republic proves successful, it will be expanded to other countries where DODO is present. Currently, the company is talking to its first customers in Hungary and Germany. ■

## Norton closer to Avast takeover

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS

UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) has provisionally cleared Avast's takeover by NortonLifeLock Inc. According to the regulator, the transaction does not raise competition concerns. By August 24, interested parties can submit their reactions to CMA's findings which will be considered before issuing a final decision planned for September 8, 2022. Česká spořitelna analyst Petr Bártek expects the final decision to be smooth. According to him, Avast shares now offer approximately 39% growth potential towards the proposed price of takeover by Norton in the majority-in-cash option. Komerční banka economist Bohumil Trampota added that Norton's cash bid consisted of USD 7.61 per Avast share plus 0.0302 Norton shares. This option prices Avast at CZK 174. ■

## Genesis Capital and Avallon sell stake in Stangl Technik

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Genesis Capital and Avallon MBO Fund have completed the sale of a majority stake in Stangl Technik Holding, a company providing building services in Poland and the Czech Republic. The multinational SPIE is its majority shareholder as of August 3, 2022. The transaction's completion was subject to approval by the Polish Antimonopoly Authority. SPIE operates on the European market in the multi-technical services segment in the energy and communications sector. It employs 48,000 people working on energy and digital transformation projects. ■

## KKCG: ARICOMA Group acquires Bulgarian Musala Soft

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ARICOMA Group of KKCG Group is acquiring Bulgarian IT company Musala Soft. The entire management of Musala Soft will remain with the company. The transaction's settlement is subject to approval by the relevant antimonopoly authorities. Upon completion of the transaction, ARICOMA will comprise 10 technology companies with consolidated sales of over EUR 400m and EBITDA of EUR 39mn. It will employ more than 4,000 professionals. This is the group's second acquisition this year. CMS Cameron McKenna took on the role of legal advisor and Marylebone Capital Advisors Private acted as financial advisor to Musala Soft. ■

## Solitea buys Slovenia's IT company Vasco

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Solitea has agreed to acquire 100% in Slovenian company Vasco računalniški inženiring, which develops and sells corporate IT systems. Vasco will come under Slovenia's SAOP, which Solitea owns and in which it associates companies active in the Croatian, Slovenian and Serbian markets. Vasco focuses on programming and selling systems and applications for HR administration, accounting, retail, wholesale and document archiving. Its solutions are used by more than 4,200 clients, primarily small and medium-sized enterprises. ■

## FutureLife is a partner of CRGH fertility clinic

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

European assisted reproductive technology (IVF) service provider FutureLife is expanding its presence in the UK through a strategic partnership with the Centre for Reproductive and Genetic Health (CRGH), London. FutureLife has over 40 clinics in Europe, performing over 40,000 IVF cycles per year. Its shareholders are global investment firm CVC Capital Partners and Hartenberg Holding, which focuses on investments primarily in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland. London-based private clinic CRGH focuses on infertility treatment and performs over 3,200 IVF cycles per year. The information was provided by Hartenberg Holding. ■

## EK: Emil Frey may acquire FCA subsidiaries in CR, SR, HU

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has authorised the Emil Frey Group to acquire sole control of three subsidiaries of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) in the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. The subsidiaries are active in the wholesale distribution of new vehicles, accessories and spare parts, as well as in the after-sales support of Fiat brands. The Commission concludes that the proposed acquisition does not raise any competition concerns. ■

## ČD Cargo ordered 10 locomotives from Siemens Mobility

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In mid-July 2022, ČD Cargo and Siemens Mobility CR signed a contract for the purchase of 10 interoperable multi-system Siemens Vectron MS electric locomotives (variant A54) with a maximum operating speed of 160 km/h. Chairman of the board of ČD Cargo Tomáš Tóth added that the company wants to use the new locomotives for train transport in Holland and Belgium. The locomotives will be manufactured at the Siemens Mobility plant in Munich-Allach and will gradually be handed over from 2H 2024. The locomotives have the unified European train security system ETCS Level 2 Baseline 3. ■

For your notes

## APS acquired Slovenian branch of UniCredit Leasing

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

APS Group, which has a Czech owner, acquired the Slovenian branch of UniCredit Leasing from UniCredit Bank Group. The acquired company will operate on the local market under the name APS Finance Adria. Unicredit Leasing manages 3,500 leasing contracts for more than 2,000 clients. The value of the assets reaches approximately EUR 60m. In the region of southern and southeastern Europe, APS had previously acquired Volksbank Leasing Holding with more than 20,000 vehicles and clients in four Balkan states. ■

## Group Securitas has acquired Stanley Security

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Securitas AB group, of which Securitas ČR is a member, has completed the acquisition of Stanley Security and Healthcare (the Electronic Security Solutions division of Stanley Black & Decker). A joint venture called Securitas Technologies will be created and will focus on the use of new technologies, including artificial intelligence. Stanley Security and Healthcare did not have a branch in the Czech Republic, so the personnel composition of Securitas ČR will not change. CEO of Securitas ČR Pavel Adamovský added that customers in the Czech Republic will benefit from new technological solutions that, thanks to the acquisition, will strengthen Securitas' portfolio of security technologies. Securitas expects to increase the joint venture's profit by 50 %. ■

## ČEZ to help U. S. Steel cut energy consumption, emissions

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

U. S. Steel Košice and ČEZ have signed a non-binding memorandum on cooperation to create a strategic partnership until 2025 with a possibility of extension. The memorandum applies to collaboration in zero-emissions electricity, construction of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and savings, and development of climate-friendly innovative solutions. ESCO Slovakia from the ČEZ Group will perform an analysis of the current state of power energy at the Košice-based steelworks and its daughter company Ferroenergy. Then it will suggest solutions that will bring energy savings and lower emissions and energy costs. ■

## Tanemo remains MMB's largest shareholder

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tanemo (owned by PPF Group) remains the largest shareholder of MONETA Money Bank (MMB) with 29.94%. Tanemo is followed by Mythesa Holdings Limited with 9.27%, Manecomte Limited with 7.90% and Chase Nominees Limited with 3.83%. Credit Suisse (Switzerland) Ltd (2.72%), Brown Brothers Harriman Co (2.51%) and State Street Bank and Trust Company (2.45%) also have a shareholding of 2% or more. The shareholding structure effective July 31, 2022 has been made public by MMB. ■

## Broker RESPECT joins WBN; will expand links abroad

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech-Slovak insurance broker RESPECT has become a member of the international brokerage network Worldwide Broker Network (WBN) with representation for the Czech Republic. The connection will allow to expand links to international insurance markets and build long-term business relationships worldwide. RESPECT will use the added value of this cooperation especially in providing services to clients with an international reach. ■

## Erste Group achieved a net profit of 1.14 billion euros

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 1H 2022, Erste Group recorded an increase in operating income of 10.3% to 1.86 billion euros and a net profit of 1.14 billion euros. Net interest income increased by 15.9% to EUR 2.84 billion thanks to continued solid loan volume growth, especially in the corporate segment and mortgages, as well as further interest rate increases in the Czech Republic, Hungary and Romania. Net income from fees and commissions increased by 10.5% year-on-year to 1.21 billion euros. ■

## KBA: ŠKODA car registrations in Germany at 82 482

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of new registrations of ŠKODA passenger cars in Germany reached 13,270 in July 2022, corresponding to an overall market share of 6.4%. Year-on-year, ŠKODA registrations increased by 1.8%. In the first seven months of 2022, 82,482 ŠKODA vehicles were registered on the German market (-15.5%). The market share was 5.7%. A total of 205,911 passenger cars were newly registered in Germany in July, down 12.9% year-on-year. This was reported by the German Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA). ■

## Y. Badritdinova is CEO of McDonald's CR and Slovakia

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

McDonald's Czech Republic and Slovakia has appointed Yuliya Badritdinova as the company's CEO effective August 1, 2022. She was previously the CEO of McDonald's Ukraine. She will now assume responsibility for the Czech Republic and Slovakia in addition to the Ukrainian market. She replaces Dan Camp, who becomes Senior Franchising Director at McDonald's USA. ■

## J. Champion is Rezolv Energy's managing director

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Jim Champion has become CEO of the newly formed Rezolv Energy. He previously worked for EnerCap. The company is based in Prague and focuses on sustainable energy production in the Czech Republic and Central and Eastern European markets. ■

For your notes

## TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

For your notes

### Czech-Slovak startup BuiltMind entering US market

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech-Slovak startup BuiltMind, offering online real estate valuation, is entering the US market by participating in the Newchip capital fund accelerator after winning second place at the MIPIM global real estate conference competition. The startup also recently established cooperation with cities and added the development company Cresco, operating in Slovakia, to its portfolio. The software can simulate a building of any configuration and purpose, taking into account the place of its construction. This helps to objectively define the cost of current and future development and further planning of the project. ■

### ABB to supply technology for CO2 storage system in Norway

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ABB will supply its automation, electrical and digital solutions for the Northern Lights carbon capture project in Norway. The systems will enable remote operation of the new CO2 capture terminal and ensure optimal plant efficiency. The technology will connect the shoreline to the ships and will also serve to power the entire project. The Brno plant will also supply the energy process control system, which will include high- and low-voltage switchgear and transformers. More than 5 million tonnes of CO2 per year are planned to be stored in the project, which is intended for industry across Europe. ■

### E.ON offers e-car payments in 9 countries from Aug

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From August 1, 2022, E.ON Czech Republic (E.ON) allows its customers to pay by card when using electric cars at approximately 12,000 charging points in nine European countries. They are the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, Slovenia, Croatia and Romania. Italy should be added in the near future. Jakub Kott from the Mobility Services department said that all stations, including availability and price, can be found by clients in the E.ON Drive application. E.ON worked with partners from the respective countries to introduce roaming services. ■

### Zásilkovna expands services in Poland, Baltics

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From August 8, 2022, Zásilkovna will start delivering parcels to the traditional brick-and-mortar branches of the Polish Post, of which there are more than 17,000. The deposit period is five working days. The price of delivery from the Czech Republic starts at CZK 100. Until now, customers could have goods from e-shops delivered to Paczkomat self-service drop-off boxes. At the same time, on the same day, it will start delivering goods to Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia via the Lithuanian Post. Delivery to address is available, in Lithuania also to self-service boxes. Cash on delivery is available to Lithuania and Latvia. ■

### OHB & VUT test PLATO space probe's carrier part

Saturday, July 30 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In July 2022, OHB Czechspace and a team from Brno Technical University's (VUT) Institute of Aerospace Engineering performed a unique load test of the PLATO space probe's carrier part. The objective of the test was to verify whether its central tube would withstand the extreme pressure load at the rocket's start and its subsequent eight-year mission in space. The preparations for the test took more than 18 months. The PLATO mission should help answer whether terrestrial planets, so-called exoplanets, exist. The roughly two-tonne-heavy probe will be equipped with 26 cameras to capture and evaluate thousands of stars' magnitude. It will send data to Earth from a distance of 1.5m km. ■

### Fintech 4Trans launches marketing via WhatsApp

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech fintech 4Trans, which specialises in cashflow for small and medium-sized trucking companies, has launched specialised marketing via social network WhatsApp. Through personalised newsletters, it will replace the traditional email marketing model. Mobile communication via WhatsApp is used by over 2 billion users worldwide and nine out of 10 4Trans clients. The fintech builds on the solution of the German software company Charles, which focuses on conversational and business activities on chat applications. The new 4Trans launched in June 2022 and the pilot operation raised the open rate of communication to 85%. ■

### Investown launches crowdfunding, applies for EU licence

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Investment platform Investown is expanding its portfolio to include bulk financing of real estate, including commercial. It also offers higher yields, starting at 8% p.a. The move is intended to reach a wider group of investors, of which over 50,000 have joined the platform so far. Investown wants to triple the current volume of brokered investments to CZK 1.5bn by the end of 2022. The platform's CEO Alan Pock said that crowdfunding will help with the development of construction in the Czech Republic, which will benefit the entire company. The company is now in the process of applying for an EU crowdfunding licence to expand into other countries. ■

### CloudTalk opens office in Lisbon, has 260 employees

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS

Slovak tech startup CloudTalk, which is developing a cloud-based communication platform to make phone calls more efficient, is opening an office in Lisbon. In 2022, the company opened offices in Prague and Bratislava. CloudTalk has also leased coworking space in Malaga, Spain, starting in the fall of 2021. Compared to last January, the business has grown by more than 200 employees to the current 260 people of 39 nationalities. ■

## AV: Scientists find how to boost solar panel efficiency

Tuesday, August 2 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

An international team of researchers has elucidated a mechanism to increase the lifetime and efficiency of photovoltaic cells with a perovskite structure. The study was co-authored by the Institute of Macromolecular Chemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences (AV). Scientists specialising in NMR spectroscopy confirmed in the research that the type of additive used is highly efficient, and at relatively low concentrations allows the generation of a significant number of radicals. It also increases the lifetime of solar cells by limiting the range of side reactions. Another benefit of using the new additive is a significant reduction in the environmental burden compared to traditional additives. ■

## Avast donated USD 600k to Moonshot Platform

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Avast Foundation supported the Digital Movement Moonshot Platform with a sum of USD 600,000. The project, which was created in response to the effects of the pandemic crisis, is thus being transformed into an international platform with the ambition of reaching up to 1 million people from various countries, including the Czech Republic. The movement connects startups and nonprofits with investors and other partners and helps them find solutions to problems across disciplines. ■

## NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

### Revenues of group TMR up 375 %

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The revenues of the Tatry mountain resorts (TMR) group for the period of six months to April 30, 2022 reached EUR 68.72m. In a year-on-year comparison, this is an increase of 375 %. Total consolidated revenues increased by 331 % to EUR 68.84m. EBITDA increased to EUR 21.07m. A year ago it ended at -8.28 million euros. At the Jasná resort, TMR continues the construction of the Biela púť – Priehyba cable car. The group also completed an investment in the optimization of the snowmaking system and the reconstruction of chalets in the Zahrádka area. In the Czech Republic, the Nová Skalka ski slope was rebuilt. ■

### SEPS increases trade capacity between SR and Ukraine

Monday, August 1 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Slovak Electricity Transmission System (SEPS) is increasing trade capacity between Slovakia and Ukraine. As of July 30, 2022, the total capacity for all daily auctions held on profiles between Ukraine/Moldova and continental European transmission systems has been increased to 250 MW for both import and export. The size of the capacity for the auction on the Ukraine-Slovakia profile was set at 125 MW for the import and export direction. After assessing the impact of trade exchanges on the stability and security of synchronously interconnected systems, SEPS expects a further gradual increase in trade capacity. ■

### EC approved Slovak Nafta's hydrogen storage project

Thursday, August 4 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Commission (EC) has approved an innovative project by the Slovak company Nafta, which focuses on research into the impact of hydrogen on gas infrastructure. Its main objective is to identify a suitable deposit for storing hydrogen in a mixture with natural gas and to determine the maximum possible concentration at which the gas could be stored in a porous type of deposit. 41 projects were included in the call for Important Projects of Common European Interest. The EC approved a maximum amount of state aid of EUR 5.4bn. A further EUR 8.8bn will go to the projects from private investors. ■

### MŠVVŠ SR: New agreements with EU to allow SMEs grow and expand

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Slovak Republic joined the European Partnership for Innovative Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by signing the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement. For Slovakia, the partnership is not only about helping innovative SMEs to grow and expand into new markets, but also an opportunity to establish cooperation on a global level. The Slovak Ministry of Education, Science, Research and Sports (MŠVVŠ SR) stated that all companies involved in research and development can participate in the project. ■

### DPB: Hydrogen buses to run in Bratislava in autumn 2023

Wednesday, August 3 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Dopravný podnik Bratislava (DPB) will be the first carrier operating a fleet of hydrogen public transport buses in Slovakia. The Slovak Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization (MIRRI SR), the governing body of IROP, approved the project to purchase low-emission buses for the capital and signed a non-refundable financial contribution agreement with DPB. The buses, which will be supplied by Polish SOLARIS Bus & Coach, should start running in Bratislava in the autumn of 2023. ■

### SR received EUR 398.7m from Recovery Plan

Friday, July 29 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The National Implementation and Coordination Authority (NIKA) at the Government Office of the Slovak Republic has received the first payment under the Recovery and Resilience Plan. After deducting the aliquot part of the advance, Slovakia received EUR 398,700,990. In total, Slovakia requested a payment worth EUR 458m. ■

For your notes

