

EU2022.CZ, ECONOMY, POLICY AND STRATEGY

For your notes

MD: CZ PRES reached agreement on TEN-T network revisionMonday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On December 5, 2022 in Brussels, the EU Council of Transport Ministers adopted a general approach to the European Commission's proposal for a regulation on Union guidelines for the development of the trans-European transport network, the so-called revision of the TEN-T networks. Minister of Transport Martin Kupka (ODS) said that reaching this agreement was a priority of the Czech Presidency and added that a large number of projects, such as high-speed lines in the Czech Republic, were included in the main TEN-T network or promoted by reclassification. This will make it easier for the Czech Republic to obtain funds from the EU for both projects and construction. The Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic (MD) further informed that the ministers under the CZ PRES also agreed that within the networks, the transport corridors will also be extended to Ukraine and Moldova. ■

EU countries discussed energy cooperation with Balkan statesWednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala (ODS) discussed cooperation in the energy sector in the context of the war in Ukraine at a summit of EU Member States and Western Balkan countries in Tirana, Albania. The outcome of the talks is an energy support package for the Western Balkans worth EUR 1bn, which could bring additional investment of up to EUR 2.5bn, but also mitigate the impact of the energy crisis on the most vulnerable. The fight against illegal migration and the deepening of the integration of the Western Balkans into the European single market were also on the agenda. Leaders made progress on the harmonisation of visa policies. ■

ECOFIN Council discussed aid to Ukraine and energy taxationTuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

EU finance ministers at the ECOFIN Council approved the modification of the financial regulation, on the basis of which the European Commission can initiate steps leading to the securing of 18 billion euros for Ukraine. They also discussed the revision of the energy taxation directive. The majority of countries supported the direction given by the Czech presidency consisting in greater flexibility, which will reflect national specificities. Czech Finance Minister Zbyněk Stanjura (ODS) said that the key for the Czech Republic is the inclusion of adequately long transitional periods for achieving the set ecological goals, which will give companies time to adapt to the new rules. ■

NRR: SFDI deficit and energy can deepen deficitThursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In its regular quarterly report, the National Budget Council (NRR) stated that a consolidation strategy for the years 2024 and 2025 must be submitted in terms of the mid-term sustainability of public finances. The planned state budget imbalance counting on a deficit of CZK 295bn in 2023 is higher because the subsidy from the national budget to the State Fund of Transport Infrastructure (SFDI) does not allow it to cover all planned expenditures. Thus, the Fund's management assumes a deficit of CZK 30.7bn. Other risks on the expenditure side include the compensations arising from energy price regulations for households and SMEs because their particular amount will depend on energy prices in 2023 and the specific form of the compensation mechanism. ■

SAP: Czech firms plan to spend CZK 61bn on digitalisationThursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech companies want to invest CZK 61bn in digitalisation by 2025. However, despite the still low unemployment and lack of qualified workers, only 9% of local businesses plan to invest most in digitalising HR. An SAP study based on an Ipsos survey also shows that companies still have a long path towards meeting the target of the EU Digital Decade, i.e., that 75% of them use modern technologies by 2030. In 2022, most companies (22%) invested in digitalising manufacturing. Twenty-five per cent intend to focus on this area in the future, and 23% want to concentrate on logistics. ■

Border controls with Slovakia extended until Dec 26Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Controls at the Czech-Slovak border introduced due to the increase in illegal migration will continue beyond December 12, 2022. The government has approved a 14-day extension. Police officers will continue to be assisted by soldiers and members of the Customs Administration of the Czech Republic. Controls at the border with Slovakia will be in place until at least midnight on 26 December 2022. Interior Minister Vít Rakušan (STAN) said the number of interceptions of illegal migrants is decreasing. The government will assess before Christmas whether it will be necessary to extend the checks again. Since the introduction of the checks on September 29, police officers have detected 9187 illegal migrants, 2231 of whom have been prevented from entering. ■

HK: Economy dampened by war and EU energy-climate plansWednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

GDP will show 2.4% growth in 2022, economy is set stagnate in 2023. This is according to the results of the Chamber of Commerce's (HK) National Economic Forecast. Annual inflation will reach 15.5% this year and 10% next year. Nominal average wages, which increased by 6.5% this year, will grow by 7% next year. Unemployment will rise from 3.5% this year to 4.0% in 2023. In addition to the war, the HK said the business sector's response to the implementation of the EU's climate and energy plans will also contribute to dampening economic growth. ■

Twisto: Average order value up 13%

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The value of goods paid for through Twisto Payments in the current pre-Christmas period has increased by 32% y/y. The average order value has increased by 13%. Higher popularity of the late payment service is also confirmed by the number of transactions (+12%). In 2021, Twisto facilitated 8 million transactions in the Czech Republic and Poland, now it is approaching more than 10 million. ComGate CEO Jakub Ouhřabka registers a roughly 30% y/y increase in transactions. Pre-Christmas loans are still being considered by 3% of Czechs, according to the Czech Banking Association. ■

MŽP supported PVPP with CZK 14bn

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic (MŽP) has approved support for photovoltaic power plants (PVPP) in the amount of CZK 14bn in 2022. Minister Marian Jurečka (KDU-ČSL) stated that the government has pledged to support 100,000 PVPP on roofs in four years and after a year it has achieved almost half of this goal. The MŽP will continue to support the construction of PVPP and the development of community energy in 2023. From January 1, 2023, the new Decree on the Electricity Market Rules, which allows the installation of PVPP in apartment buildings, will also come into effect, as approved by the Council of the Energy Regulatory Office (ERÚ). ■

PAK reconstructed Winternitz mills for CZK 361m

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Pardubice Region (PAK) has completed the construction reconstruction of the main building of the national cultural monument of the Winternitz automatic mill. Construction began in 2020. Its contractor is the Society for the Restoration of Automatic Mills in Pardubice (the companies Metrostav and Chládek a Tintěra). The price of construction works increased from CZK 338 to 361 million. The region received CZK 127 million from European funds and CZK 7.5 million from state subsidies. Gočár's Gallery will be located in the building, which is currently being fitted out. The region informed that it will be put into full operation together with other buildings - Sphere, GAMPOU and Silom - in autumn 2023. ■

EU member states discussed digital and data economy

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS

EU ministers under the Czech presidency approved a draft regulation on the Artificial Intelligence and Digital Identity Act in Brussels. They also adopted a progress report on the Data Act, which is key horizontal legislation for building Europe's data economy. Czech Industry and Trade Minister Jozef Síkela (STAN) said the aim was to enable access to data for those involved in its creation, to make the most of its potential, and to support the development of data-driven innovative products and services. ■

AURES: Used car prices down 9%, eco-car offer up

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The supply of used cars in the Czech Republic increased by 5.1% y/y to 101,208 units in November 2022. This is according to statistics from the AURES Holdings group, operator of the AAA Auto and Mototechna networks. The most frequently offered model was the Škoda Octavia with a median price of CZK 180,500 at 9.8 years old. There were 748 hybrids on offer (+20 units) and 481 pure EVs (+50%). Among EVs, the most frequently offered was the Skoda Enyaq, with hybrids still dominated by Toyota with the RAV 4, Corolla and C-HR. Chief Operating Officer Petr Vaněček said prices in car dealerships had fallen by just under 9% since the start of 2022. In contrast, prices at dealerships, which generally offer younger used cars around 4 years old, have risen by 8.5%. This is due to the rising price of new cars and the ongoing shortage. ■

JHM: TGM Hospital Hodonín to open CZK 183m pavilion tender

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Councillors of the South Moravian Region (JHM) approved the construction of the Imaging Methods Pavilion at the TGM Hodonín Hospital. The estimated cost of the project is CZK 183m. The hospital itself will announce an above-limit public tender for the construction work. The two-storey building will contain a waiting room, facilities for staff and patients, reception, examination rooms for the sciagraph, skiascope, magnetic resonance imaging and a CT workplace with accessories on the entrance floor. The MRI machine will be purchased by the hospital with EU funding, specifically REACT-EU. ■

Building production up 1%, wages up 11%

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Output in the construction sector rose by 1.0% y/y in real terms in October 2022, up 1.8% m/m. Building authorities issued 7,178 building permits, down 6.5% y/y. The indicative value of these constructions amounted to CZK 38.2 billion (+11.1%). The Czech Statistical Office reported that housing construction starts are in decline. The number of housing starts was 2,598 (-27.7%), while the number of completions was 3,341 (-0.6%). The average number of registered employees in the sector increased by 1.0%. Average gross monthly nominal wages were 11.3% higher. According to Eurostat data, construction output grew by 1.4% in the EU27 in September 2022. ■

For your notes

Industry up 3.1%, industry wages up 8.6%

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

Industrial production rose 3.1% y/y in real terms in October 2022. It was down 3.7% month-on-month. The data was released by the Czech Statistical Office, adding that automakers' output helped maintain y/y growth, but due to partial supply problems with components, it also affected the m/m decline. The value of new orders rose by 18.1% y/y. New orders from abroad increased by 15.1%, while domestic orders increased by 24.6%. The average number of registered employees in the sector decreased by 0.3% and average gross monthly nominal wages increased by 8.6%. According to data published by Eurostat in September 2022, industry grew by 5.7% in the EU27 and 8.3% in the Czech Republic. ■

Trade deficit widened to CZK 27bn, mainly due to energy

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The balance of foreign trade in goods at current prices ended with a deficit of CZK 26.8bn in October 2022, up CZK 10.0bn y/y, according to preliminary data. This was reported by the Czech Statistical Office, adding that the main reason is still high prices of imported energy commodities and inputs. The balance with EU countries improved by CZK 17.1bn. The deficit with non-EU countries widened by CZK 27.5bn. Exports rose by 17.2% to CZK 392.1bn and imports by 19.2% to CZK 418.9bn. On a month-on-month adjusted basis, exports fell by 2.6% and imports by 1.8%. In 10M 2022, the balance showed a deficit of CZK 174.3bn (2021: surplus of CZK 3.4bn). Exports grew by 13.8% y/y and imports by 19.3%. ■

AČN supports abolishment of guaranteed wage system

Monday, December 5 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Association of Czech Furniture Makers (AČN) agrees with the plan of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic (MPSV) to abolish the system of guaranteed wages, which significantly disadvantages Czech furniture manufacturers. A similar system does not exist in any other EU country. It causes an increase in the lowest salaries to automatically raise all salaries in the company. Trade unionists do not want to accept the effort of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications to separate the minimum wage from the guaranteed wages so that only the minimum and guaranteed wages for the 8th group of jobs will increase from January 2023. ■

ECOFIN Council to discuss financial assistance to Ukraine

Monday, December 5 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

On December 6, 2022, at the last regular meeting of the ECOFIN Council during the Czech Presidency, the finance ministers of the EU countries will discuss the continuation of financial assistance to Ukraine. At the level of the European Union, a long-term loan of up to 18 billion euros is being considered, which represents almost half of the amount that the war-torn country will need in 2023 for the normal operation of the state and ensuring the operation of critical infrastructure. Another item on the agenda is a new framework for managing economic affairs, including the setting of fiscal rules, and Hungary's recovery plan. ■

V4 topics in Bratislava include Russian aggression

Monday, December 5 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

On December 6, 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský (Pirates) will hold talks with the ministers of foreign affairs of the Visegrad Four (V4) countries in Bratislava. Topics of discussion will include the effects of Russian aggression in Ukraine, the role of the V4 countries in relation to the EU, and the perspectives of cooperation between the V4 countries. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic further informed that the ministers will meet for the first time as part of the Slovak presidency of the Visegrad Group. ■

KKCG: KOMIX Digital to focus on European region

Monday, December 5 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

KOMIX, part of the ICT holding Aricoma Group, will be divided into two separate companies as of January 1, 2023. KOMIX, led by CEO Tomáš Rutl, will focus exclusively on public sector customers and provide more comprehensive services and support. Under new CEO Robert Nagrant, KOMIX Digital will focus on business development for large corporate clients in the European region. The KKCG Group further informed that in February 2021, KOMIX opened a branch in Switzerland, where it acquired a new client: Nestlé. As ČIA NEWS had previously reported, KOMIX and KOMIX Digital have made a project of division by spin-off and merger. ■

MD: TRANSPORT 2020+ will support 36 projects

Monday, December 5 | ČIA NEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Technology Agency (TA) of the Czech Republic registers 198 submitted proposals in the 4th public competition in the departmental program to support applied research, experimental development and innovation in the field of transport TRANSPORT 2020+. 36 projects will be supported with a total of CZK 509.68 million. The Ministry of Transport of the Czech Republic (MD) further informed that its goal is to subsidize projects aimed at practical results applicable in transport. In addition to projects focused on transport infrastructure or means of transport, the topics addressed also relate to a systemic approach to transport, the development of automation and digitalisation or the use of satellite data. A total of 141 projects were submitted to the first public competition in 2019, followed by roughly 200 per year in the following years. ■

For your notes

V4 wants to create program to support Ukraine and Moldova

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Visegrad Four (V4) countries' foreign ministers agreed that it would be useful to create a new emergency programme of the International Visegrad Fund to support the people of Ukraine and Moldova, which is still symbolic in scope. This was announced by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Minister Jan Lipavský (Pirates) said that the Czech position on V4 cooperation remains pragmatic and that it wants to focus on expert and people-to-people cooperation rather than coordination on foreign, EU and security issues at the political level. ■

SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

V-Sharp invests in Tapline, funding startups

Friday, December 9 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

V-Sharp Venture Studio invests in German digital finance platform Tapline. In total, the German startup raises EUR 31.7m in investment in combination with debt funding from UK-based Fasanara Capital. V-Sharp is the lead venture investor with EUR 1.7 million. The Tapline service is intended to help increase liquidity in the startup environment. The ambition is to enable companies with a SaaS product to raise funds for development by allowing them to work immediately with the full amount of the subscription purchased. The funding will allow the Berlin team to tap into the SaaS market, which is expected to reach EUR 720bn in transactions by 2028. The investment will also be used to further improve the service. ■

Nation 1 and Expedite Vetures invested CZK 15m in Acreom

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Nation 1 and Expedite Vetures funds have backed Slovak Acreom with an investment of almost CZK 15m. The technology startup will use the funds not only to further expand its product according to its roadmap, but also to expand abroad, especially into the US. Acreom offers a development tool to facilitate the organization of work. It will start operations in November 2022. By the end of the year, it plans to make its API available, allowing its users to create modifications and extensions to the product. ■

BankM to arrange Xetra share deal for Photon Energy

Thursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

BankM has become Photon Energy's broker for share trading on Deutsche Börse's Xetra electronic platform. Until now, the energy company's shares were traded on the regulated markets in Warsaw and Prague. By extending trading to the Xetra system, shareholders based in the eurozone will be able to trade more easily and at a lower cost, according to the company. After inclusion in Xetra, the shares will continue to trade on the Frankfurt, Warsaw and Prague stock exchanges. ■

Aero delivered 240+ pairs of leading edges for Airbus A220

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Aero Vodochody Aerospace specialises in the development and production of military aircraft, in addition to supplying complex assemblies for transport aircraft. For the Airbus A220, Aero manufactures and supplies the fixed wing leading edge. At the beginning of the cooperation, it also prepared its design and development. More than 240 pairs of leading edges have been produced so far in the project. These are being shipped from Vodochod to Belfast where the final assembly of the entire wing is taking place. President & CEO of Aero Vodochody, Viktor Sotona, added that more than 60% of the suppliers of the components for the production of the component come from the Czech Republic. ■

VDT and Mobileye develop autonomous bus

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

VDT Technology is working with Israel's Mobileye to develop an autonomous bus and integrate it into the city's traffic management. The project also involves the Faculty of Transport of the Czech Technical University in Prague and the Prague Innovation Centre for Advanced Technologies and Research PATRIC. The main aim is to ensure that autonomous vehicles can serve citizens and strengthen the public transport network without impacting the environment. The autonomous bus would first be introduced to the Czech market and then to other countries. The pilot phase is a test phase, with at least 15 newly developed autonomous vehicles to be tested in the Czech Republic from a technical and operational point of view. ■

KŠB advised Seyfor on Commander Services acquisition

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Law firm Kocián Šolc Balaščík (KŠB) assisted the company Seyfor, formerly Solitea, in the acquisition of the Slovak company Commander Services dealing with vehicle monitoring. It provides a comprehensive solution for customers including, among other things, an electronic driving record, refueling cards, automatic data download from the tachograph, active monitoring of the motor vehicle and more. It has four branches in Slovakia and two in the Czech Republic. KŠB's consultancy included, among other things, the preparation of a merger permit proposal and due diligence. Transaction consulting in Slovakia was managed by AK Relevans. ■

For your notes

Largest shareholder of MMB is Tanemo from PPF

Monday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tanemo (owned by PPF Group) remains the largest shareholder of MONETA Money Bank (MMB) with 29.94%. It is followed by Manecomte Limited with 10.39%, Mythessa Holdings Limited with 4.97%, CREDITAS Bank with 4.31% and Chase Nominees Limited with 3.40%. State Street Bank and Trust Company (2.46%) and Brown Brothers Harriman Co. also have stakes of 2% or more. (2.37%). The shareholder structure valid as of November 30, 2022 was published by MMB. ■

Pilulka expands to Austria and plans fast growth

Thursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Pilulka Group, operating the Czech online pharmacy, has entered the Austrian market under the name Pilulka.at. It will offer more than 10,000 products to Austrian clients. The parcels will be dispatched from the newly opened specialised pharmacy in Olomouc, which will deal with more than 7,000 orders a day. It will also offer the Pilulka app, Pilulka Expres services, and Pilulka Boxes. Martin Kasa, a member of the board of directors, said the company wanted to be one of the top three online pharmacies in the Austrian market fast. He added they planned to develop the pharmacy segment more towards prevention and health care and provide customers with services not available in Austria now. The group operates an online shop also in Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. ■

Quick Stop Car to build service stations at Globus

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Franchise car service network Quick Stop Car has agreed to cooperate with Globus ČR. The service units, which are to offer customers a complete service for cars and vans, will be in operation from 1 February 2023 near 14 Globus hypermarkets. Quick Stop Car plans to open dozens more branches in the year. Marek Zukal, the company's CEO, said the car service network is in talks about additional locations that will be close to petrol stations, not only in the Czech Republic, but also in Slovakia, Poland and Hungary. The company is currently looking for franchisee. ■

P3 to complete almost 70,000 m2 of logistics space in '23

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In response to the lack of warehouse space in Central Europe, P3 Logistic Parks is speculatively building two halls intended for light manufacturing and logistics in the Plzeň park P3 Plzeň Myslinka. Premises with an area of almost 17,000 m2 will be available for occupancy at the beginning of 2Q 2023. An additional approximately 23,000 m2 of rentable areas will be created in the Lovosice park. They should be ready for tenants at the turn of March and April 2023. In the Lower Vítkovice region, the company plans to build another 29,000 m2 of space on 44 ha of brownfield land. Estimated completion is in September 2023. All new buildings with an area of almost 70,000 m2 strive for BREEAM Excellent certification. ■

DODO expanding to Germany and Austria

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

DODO is currently intensively dedicated to expanding into the German and Austrian markets, where it is building local management. In Hungary, orders have increased by 150 % over the past two years. The vehicle fleet in the local market includes almost 200 cars that deliver goods in 35 cities. Hungarian customers include Hervis, Rossmann, BENU and KFC pharmacies. Commercial director Peter Menky said, among other things, that the introduction of the DODO Partner franchise program is a way to efficiently and dynamically manage expansion across Europe. The company also operates successfully in Slovakia, Poland and Bulgaria. ■

Progresus to build logistics hall with German GARBE

Monday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Progresus Invest Holding, in cooperation with Halcyon Capital Partners, entered into the first project with the German developer GARBE Industrial Real Estate CEE. In the Verne industrial zone near Klášterec nad Ohří, they will jointly build the logistics center GARBE Park Chomutov II for 30 million euros. A center with a usable area exceeding 20,000 m2 will connect to the GARBE Park Chomutov industrial zone. The construction of the hall is to be completed in 2023. Majority financing is provided by the Progresus group through a combination of several sources. The building will meet BREEAM Excellent standards. ■

Kentico software opened branch in Prague and is hiring

Monday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Kentico software opened its branch in Prague. This is the company's sixth office to develop the Xperience by Kentico digital content management platform. It enables its clients to interact with customers using digital channels. CEO Dominik Pintér said that the company is now looking for employees and added that the goal is to quadruple the current turnover in the coming years. Kentico, which is based in Brno, currently has branches in the USA, Great Britain, Germany and Australia. It has customers in 120 countries and employs more than 160 people. More than 35,000 websites are running on its platform. ■

Accolade fund preparing acquisition of hall in Spain

Monday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Accolade Industrial Fund is preparing the acquisition of a logistics hall in Spain with a leasable area of more than 6,600 m2. Its tenant is since November 2022 the company TXT Transportes. In 3Q 2022, the fund achieved an appreciation of 2.49 % in CZK and 1.92 % in euros. The total leasable area of real estate owned by the fund increased by almost 280,000 m2. The portfolio grew by four parks - one in the Czech Republic and three in Poland. Currently, there are 29 fully leased industrial parks with 96 tenants, in Slovakia and Germany in addition to the mentioned countries. The leasable area of all reaches 1.2 million m2. They have passed BREEAM sustainability certification. The value of the portfolio is 1.2 billion euros. The fund brings together more than 2,500 qualified investors. ■

For your notes

Penny tests supply e-trucks; installs more PV plants

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Penny Market is testing a Mercedes eActros all-electric truck for store supply. The vehicle can hold up to 18 Euro pallets and is suitable for supplying larger cities. Once the test run is complete and evaluated, the chain will consider permanently integrating electric vehicles into its fleet. Penny has a long-term focus on reducing its environmental and energy burden. In 2023, it plans to continue installing photovoltaic installations (PV) and applying other energy-saving and green technologies to achieve a 9.3% reduction in energy consumption and a 23% reduction in CO2 emissions. As previously reported by ČIANEWS, thanks to the upgrades and new technologies, the chain has reduced the consumption of its stores by 13% since 2014 and that of its logistics centres by 25%. ■

Audi provided CZ PRES with a fleet of 10 armored cars

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Audi brand provided the Presidency of the Czech Republic in the Council of the EU (CZ PRES) with a fleet of 10 Audi A8 L Security armored vehicles. Luxury limousines transported the highest representatives of individual delegations. Ten cars traveled almost 7 thousandkilometers over the course of approximately three months. ■

Slavia pojišťovna modernizing products

Monday, December 5 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slavia pojišťovna plans to offer clients the latest product variants that cover more risks and respond to new stimuli and risks. It is currently improving the Živnostník product, used mainly by craftsmen, which it wants to offer to people from other fields of business. It is also improving auto insurance for glass insurance, animal collision or legal services. It will now calculate rates in more detail according to individual regions in which clients live or do business. It is ready to return to insuring foreigners when the amendment abolishing the VZP monopoly on this insurance is discussed and approved by the Chamber of Deputies. ■

BRANO had a turnover of CZK 4.99bn, eyeing more markets

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

BRANO achieved a net turnover of CZK 4.99bn in 2021. Profit after tax amounted to CZK 202.37m. The manufacturer of auto parts, lifting devices and door systems further informed in the annual report that the greater part of sales, specifically CZK 3.98bn, was achieved abroad. The number of employees last year was 1,613. The company's ambition is to continue consolidating existing and acquiring new markets. ■

TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Čedok to fly from ČB to Greece and Turkey with Smartwings

Thursday, December 8 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From August 2023, Čedok will fly to Rhodos, Greece, and Antalya, Turkey, from the České Budějovice (ČB) airport. Most often, it will offer four- and five-star resorts with all-inclusive programmes. Travellers can choose from tours to the sea and several excursion tours. Smartwings will be the first carrier responsible for charter flights with the Boeing 737 aircraft. Thus, the České Budějovice airport will meet the necessary requirements for regular civil air operations and obtain the JCL airport code from IATA. Čedok will start selling first-minute tours on December 8, 2022. ■

IVECO to improve IVECO ON telematics; tracks 1200 buses

Wednesday, December 7 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IVECO is preparing new services on the IVECO ON portal as well as improved predictive maintenance. The IVECO ON telematics services, whose Smart Pack is part of the standard equipment of all IVECO BUS vehicles delivered from the beginning of 2022, are already active on 1,200 vehicles. The digital experience offered by IVECO ON helps optimise fleet performance while improving total cost of ownership. Checkpoints with specialists are located in Vénissieux and Rorthais, France. ■

Čedok: Direct flights from Bratislava as of summer 2023

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

From the summer season of 2023, the Čedok travel agency will offer a total of nine destinations with departures from Bratislava. Thanks to the expanded offer of direct flights and hotels, Slovaks can visit popular summer destinations in Bulgaria, Greece, Spain, Albania, Turkey, Egypt and Malta. The sale of first minute tours from Slovakia at prices in euros started on December 6, 2022 and will take place online and in the network of partners. ■

Lemonero and Comgate offering e-shops fast loans

Tuesday, December 6 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Fintech Lemonero, a provider of embedded financing for small and medium-sized e-shops, is officially launching a service called Business Loan in cooperation with Comgate. The service aims to simplify access to the necessary capital for thousands of entrepreneurs. It is based on the principle of a quick loan with an interest rate of 0.99 % per month. By using the Business Loan, companies can take out capital ranging from CZK 30,000 to CZK 1 million online. Lemonero is not only expanding its range of services, it has also recently entered the Netherlands. ■

For your notes

RegioJet to launch line from Prague to Schwechat airport

Tuesday, December 6 | [ČIANEWS](#) | [Information Source](#)

From December 11, 2022, when the 2023 timetable starts to apply, RegioJet will launch direct connections between Prague, Brno and Vienna Schwechat Airport. For passengers, this means that from December 2022 to June 2023, they will be able to travel daily on a total of six direct train connections. Some travel times will also be reduced with the new order. The journey between Prague and Ostrava will be shorter by up to 13 minutes. From July 2023, the detour near Brandýs nad Orlicí will end and trains heading from Prague to Brno will once again be routed via Česká Třebová. The travel time will thus be reduced by 26 minutes to 2 hours and 33 minutes. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

NR SR approved the taxation of electricity producers

Tuesday, December 6 | [ČIANEWS](#) | [Information Source](#)

The National Council of the Slovak Republic (NR SR) approved a proposal to tax the excess income of electricity producers at a rate of 90%. The measure was presented by the Government of the Slovak Republic in accordance with the earlier agreement of the EU member states. Its goal is to solve high energy prices. President Zuzana Čaputová still has to sign the law. ■

Formation of gross fixed capital in SR up to EUR 5.8bn

Tuesday, December 6 | [ČIANEWS](#) | [Information Source](#)

Total gross capital formation in Slovakia in 3Q 2022 reached 7.1 billion euros. Of this, the formation of gross fixed capital in current prices amounted to EUR 5.8 billion, which represents year-on-year growth of 19.5%. This follows from the data of the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, with the largest increase in the volume of investments in real estate (+31.8%). The information and communication (-3.3%) and education (-3.6%) sectors recorded a decrease. For 1-3Q 2022, total gross capital formation reached EUR 18.6 billion (+1.6%) and gross fixed capital formation amounted to EUR 14.9 billion (+5%). ■

CRIF SK: No. of personal bankruptcies fell to 800 in Nov

Tuesday, December 6 | [ČIANEWS](#) | [Information Source](#)

In November 2022, 800 citizens of Slovakia went bankrupt. This represents a year-on-year decrease of 20.08%. The number of personal bankruptcies has been decreasing year-on-year for five months in a row. This follows from the CRIF - Slovak Credit Bureau (CRIF SK) analysis, with the fact that the number of bankruptcies fell by 11.11% month-on-month. Since the beginning of the year, 8,793 Slovak citizens have gone bankrupt, which is more than in the entire year 2021 (8,641). ■

For your notes
