

EU2022.CZ, ECONOMY, POLICY AND STRATEGY

For your notes

Síkela and Habeck called for extending crisis frameworkMonday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Minister of Industry and Trade Jozef Síkela (STAN) and German Minister of Economy and Climate Protection Robert Habeck agreed that the European Commission needs to extend the validity of the Temporary Crisis Framework to help businesses affected by Russian aggression against Ukraine as soon as possible and adjust the conditions so that it is even more flexible and better responsive to the current situation. The ministers also discussed the emerging LNG terminals in Wilhelmshaven and Brunsbüttel, and J. Síkela stated that the Czech Republic is interested in a stake in one of them. Another topic was the solidarity agreement, which sets the conditions under which Germany will share gas with the Czech Republic in the event of an emergency. ■

Moody's cuts CPI's rating to Baa3 with stable outlookWednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded CPI Property Group's (CPI) credit rating to Baa3. The outlook has been changed from negative to stable. According to the agency, the downgrade reflects the company's weaker capital structure following the takeover of Immofinanz and S-Immo. Higher refinancing costs on maturing debt will also put further pressure on fixed charge coverage, although a well-distributed maturity profile and hedging positions help keep it at a level consistent with an investment grade rating. ■

P. Fiala and V. Rakušan discussed migrationTuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prime Minister Petr Fiala (ODS) discussed with Minister of the Interior Vít Rakušan (STAN) about illegal migration from Syria to Europe and the fight against disinformation. The Prime Minister stated that in recent days, the number of persons caught in transit illegal migration to the Czech Republic has decreased. The Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (MV) together with the Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic is preparing an amendment to the Criminal Code, which should enable more effective prosecution of organizers of illegal migration. P. Fiala further states that the MV is also preparing a draft law on restricting the dissemination of content threatening national security. He added that the key is to preserve all freedoms for citizens. ■

MPO: CZ PRES gave impetus to sustainable trade agreementsMonday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Council of the European Union (EU) agreed on the future of an active and sustainable trade policy, and on October 17, 2022, member states formally approved the Council's conclusions on trade and sustainability. The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (MPO) informed about this, stating that this success of the Czech Presidency (CZ PRES) opens up new possibilities for the negotiation of EU trade agreements with third countries as well as more effective implementation and enforcement of rules in the field of sustainable development. Minister Jozef Síkela (STAN) said that at the moment the EU has negotiated trade agreements with, for example, Australia, India or Indonesia. ■

Michl at IMF meeting: CNB must not cause volatilityMonday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Governor of the Czech National Bank (ČNB) Aleš Michl, member of the bank board Karina Kubelková and other representatives of the central bank attended the regular annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). One of the main topics of the meeting was the stabilization of economies, to which A. Michl stated that the CNB must not cause volatility by itself and must be a solid anchor stabilizing conditions in the economy. The annual meeting of the IMF was held from October 10 to 16, 2022 in Washington. ■

NKÚ: State-supported industrial research not effectiveMonday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Supreme Audit Office (NKÚ) examined how money from the state budget was distributed for the purposeful support of industrial research, development and innovation. During the inspection of three national programs managed by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (MPO), of which approximately CZK 10bn was spent between 2016 and 2022, the NKÚ found deficiencies reducing the effectiveness and efficiency of the subsidies provided. As the inspection of 19 selected projects of the TRIO program showed, the projects mostly achieved the expected results of research and development, but in most cases they did not lead to the fulfillment of economic benefits in practice. In the audited projects, the NKÚ found that two or three years after the completion of the projects, sales reached an average of only 10.2 % and profit 7.6 % of the volume that the beneficiaries expected in their support applications. This is also why more than 63 % of the 19 projects were evaluated by the NKÚ as having limited efficiency and effectiveness or wholly lacking efficiency and effectiveness. ■

VRP: Budget prep process has no legislative support

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Committee for Budget Forecasts (VRP) evaluated the forecast of the revenues of the sector of government institutions of the Ministry of Finance of the Czech Republic from August 2022 in terms of the probability of its fulfillment. According to the standard budget process, this prediction should have been used for revenue planning in the 2023 state budget law. The VRP said that the actual proposed budget revenue differs from the version approved by it, slightly in several items and in one significantly. A fundamental change was the inclusion of a tax on windfall profits and the introduction of a ceiling on market revenues from electricity production in the total amount of CZK 100bn in budget revenues. The VRP stated that such a procedure has no support in the current legislation and added that it does not have sufficient information to evaluate these extraordinary incomes in terms of the probability of their achievement. ■

Analysts: Energy prices remain a risk for industry

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS

September industrial producer prices suggest that while price pressures are already easing for some items, prices for a number of others continue to rise gradually following some lag in input cost growth. In response to the statistical data, the chief economist of the Czech Banking Association, Jakub Seidler, stated this, saying that price growth remains relatively noticeable. The chief economist of BH Securities, Štěpán Křeček, added that price increases may start to threaten the competitiveness of Czech products abroad. Capping energy prices will help small and medium-sized businesses. However, large industrial enterprises with a high energy demand, which will not be covered by the energy price ceilings, may run into problems. Raiffeisenbank analyst David Vagenknecht noted that although companies on average do not plan to increase the pace of price increases until the end of the year, energy prices are still a risk. On average this year, his forecast expects industrial producer prices to grow by around 27 %, but he considers dynamics of around 25 % to be more likely. ■

Prices in industry up 25.8 %, 33.6 % in agriculture

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Industrial producer prices increased by 25.8 % y/y in September 2022 (25.2 % in August). In particular, the prices of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning increased by 64.0 %. They were also higher in the coke and refined petroleum products sector. The data was published by the Czech Statistical Office. Agricultural producer prices were higher by 33.6 %. Construction works rose in price by 13.1 % and market services for businesses by 6.8 %. According to Eurostat data, industrial producer prices rose by 43.0 % in the EU27 in August 2022. They rose by 51.8 % in Slovakia and by 25.2 % in the Czech Republic. ■

Allianz: Chip shortages hit European carmakers hardest

Friday, October 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The main victims of the chip shortage in the last two years have been car manufacturers. According to estimates by insurer Allianz Trade, some 18 million vehicles have been out of production. The crisis has had the biggest impact in Europe, where the damage is estimated by the insurer's analysts to amount to around EUR 100bn in added value between 2021 and 2022. Carmakers and their suppliers have responded to the pandemic by significantly reducing inventories and semiconductor orders. However, demand for new vehicles recovered faster than expected in 2020. In the meantime, however, chipmakers have shifted their capacity elsewhere, leaving the auto industry with insufficient capacity. As a result, car production in Europe has fallen to an unprecedented low of 13 million vehicles. ■

MMR: Heat consumers to get consumption data monthly

Friday, October 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

MPs have approved a bill in its third reading that will allow people to receive information on their heat and hot water consumption. The bill reports will be delivered to citizens at least monthly intervals. The Ministry of Regional Development added that this is a transposition of an EU directive into Czech law. Minister Ivan Bartoš (Pirates) said that it is also an effort to ensure that the information obligation and the costs associated with it do not burden small housing cooperatives and housing associations. It is therefore necessary to change the definition of a remotely readable meter. Where there is no digital system for remote data acquisition, no one will be forced to buy expensive meters in the current crisis. ■

LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

PSP approves growth in state budget gap to CZK 375bn

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS

The Chamber of Deputies of the Czech Republic has approved an increase in the state budget deficit for this year to CZK 375bn. The government proposed the budget amendment due to the consequences of the war in Ukraine, high inflation, and energy prices. These factors were not known at the time the budget was drawn up. Budget revenues are expected to increase due to higher tax collection. ■

For your notes

EC introduces proposals to reduce price of natural gas

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On October 18, 2022, the European Commission (EC) proposed a new emergency regulation to address high gas prices in the EU and ensure security of supply in the winter. The proposal includes common gas purchasing, price capping mechanisms for trading in the virtual hub Title Transfer Facility (TTF), new measures for transparent use of infrastructure, solidarity between Member States and continued efforts to reduce gas demand. The EC is also proposing to mobilise up to EUR 40bn from the Cohesion Policy fund to tackle the energy crisis and is considering additional subsidies from the REPowerEU programme to accelerate the transition of Member States to green energy. ■

MPO: Updated EC crisis framework will help all sectors

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech government has approved an update of the European Commission's so-called Temporary Framework, which will allow more Czech companies to apply for support for the increased costs of natural gas and electricity due to the extraordinary rise in their prices. The Ministry of Industry and Trade (MPO) informed that the expected allocation of the programme is up to CZK 30bn. Minister Jozef Síkela (STAN) said that MPO had extended the scope of the programme to all sectors of the Czech economy and added that the government had specified and improved conditions for particularly energy-intensive enterprises whose energy costs exceed 3% of the value of their turnover. MPO will launch the call in the first half of November. ■

MMR: Senate to discuss support of low-emission vehicles

Friday, October 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Chamber of Deputies approved a bill on the promotion of low-emission vehicles through public procurement and public services in passenger transport. The Ministry of Regional Development (MMR) informed that the number of low-emission vehicles in the Czech Republic should continuously increase. It specified that in the first phase until 2025, the set share of newly acquired low-emission vehicles is 29.7% for passenger cars and light commercial vehicles, 41% for buses and 9% for trucks. The regulatory requirement is based on European legislation that promotes clean mobility with an emphasis on electric propulsion. The bill will be discussed by the Senate. The ministry also supports the acquisition of low-emission vehicles from the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP). 29 projects worth CZK 4.1bn are registered in the current call. ■

MZV: EU to sanction Iran for drone supply to Russia

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS

EU member states' ambassadors have approved sanctions against Iranian entities responsible for supplying drones to Russia that are used to attack Ukraine. Therefore, member states will freeze the assets of three individuals and one entity responsible. At the same time, the EU is prepared to expand sanctions to an additional four Iranian entities that were on another sanction list in the past. The sanctions will be enacted after publishing in the Official Journal on October 20, 2022. This information was provided by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MZV), adding that this was another success of the Czech Republic's EU Presidency. ■

EP proposes not to recognise Russian passports

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On October 20, 2022, the European Parliament (EP) agreed that EU countries would not accept travel documents issued by Russia in occupied Ukrainian territories and so-called breakaway territories of Georgia to issue a visa or cross the EU's external borders. The final wording of the act will be discussed with the Council of the European Union. The European Commission should set a list of non-acceptable Russian travel documents. It should also add new regions or remove some regions from the list of occupied territories. According to the EU, almost all member states have announced that they do not accept Russian passports issued in occupied foreign regions. ■

HK: Employment of foreigners under threat

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech Chamber of Commerce (HK) has praised the government's discussion of a modification of the regulation on the maximum number of applications for employment cards, which will redistribute part of the unused quota from Ukraine among other countries. At the same time, however, it warned that this programme is at risk of disappearing as of January 1, 2023. The Czech Republic could thus reopen to illegal work and low-paid labour after six years. The reason for this is the situation in which the table positions of almost 100 staff of the Asylum and Migration Policy Department of the Ministry of the Interior and 10 staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who have so far screened employers and applicants from abroad for residence permits, will not be covered financially in 2023. ■

Comparison tools demand EC ban on Google dominance

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Representatives of 43 leading European comparison tools from 15 countries have once again called on the European Commission in a letter to ban Google from favoring its Google Shopping service. Despite the fine of 2.4 billion euros (almost CZK 62 billion) levied in 2017, the Internet search engine continues to violate the rules of competition on the European price comparison market. It prioritizes its price comparison tool within the general search results pages. Heureka Group further informed that a coalition of companies operating throughout the European Economic Area (EEA) also alerted the EC to the Digital Markets Regulation (DMA) valid from October 2022. The standard now includes an even more explicit prohibition against gatekeeper search engines inserting their own specialized search services into their general search results pages. The signatories of the letter include, in addition to the Heureka Group, the German LadenZeile and Idealo, the Italian Trovareprezzi or the Swedish Prisjak or the French leGuide. ■

For your notes

SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

For your notes

EPH almost tripled revenues to EUR 15.1bn

Friday, October 14 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Energetický a průmyslový holding (EPH) reported a year-on-year increase in revenue from EUR 5.7bn to EUR 15.1bn for H1 2022. EBITDA rose from EUR 1.05bn to EUR 1.67bn. EPH said this in an unaudited consolidated report, adding that the full result for the half-year amounted to EUR 836m. ■

OP Fisheries will provide CZK 1.1bn for aquaculture

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of Agriculture (MZe) has announced the first calls of the Operational Programme Fisheries for the new period 2021-2027. The call Investments in aquaculture will support CZK 50m for enterprises, fishermen's associations and associations. The funds are e.g. intended for the construction and reconstruction of ponds. The Product Processing call will support micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises with CZK 10m. By 2027, the Ministry will provide CZK 1.1bn in subsidies to fishermen through the OP. Agriculture Minister Zdeněk Nekula (KDU-ČSL) said that fishing is a renewable resource that contributes to improving the state of the landscape and water retention. Applications for subsidies can be submitted until November 28, 2022, through the ISKP21+ portal. ■

Eurowag closes partnership with German JITpay Group

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

W.A.G payment solutions (Eurowag) has announced a strategic partnership with JITpay Group, a German payment service provider specialising in the logistics industry. Eurowag is a pan-European integrated payment and mobility platform focused on the commercial road transport sector. The collaboration will enable Eurowag to expand its product portfolio with solutions for invoice discounting, digital invoicing, and receivables management. As part of the partnership, Eurowag has acquired a minority stake in JITpay Group with an option to increase the stake subject to regulatory approval. In addition, the move will strengthen Eurowag's presence in Germany, which is the largest freight market in Europe. ■

Daikin to invest EUR 50m in Brno in heat pump production

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Daikin, the Japanese manufacturer of air-conditioning systems and heat pumps, will invest EUR 50m in expanding production in Brno. The company added that it was strengthening its European production capacity to satisfy the growing demand for sustainable heating solutions. The investment, thanks to which the production should quintuple, will create at least 500 new job opportunities in the region of Brno by 2025. ■

Škoda ships first tram for Rhein-Neckar-Verkehr

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS

Škoda Transportation has dispatched the first tram from a contract for the Rhein-Neckar-Verkehr transport company. Škoda Group CZ also announced that the tram has undergone recovery, static and first dynamic tests on the test track in Plzeň. It will be further tested in Ludwigshafen. As already reported by ČIANEWS, the rolling stock manufacturer will deliver 80 trams to the German transport company with an option for another 34. They will be operated on lines between the cities of Mannheim, Ludwigshafen, and Heidelberg. The first tram was to be delivered in 2021. The total value of the contract is expected to reach almost CZK 7bn. ■

DRFG working on CZK 7bn acquisitions in Poland

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The DRFG investment group still perceives Poland as a strategic market and intends to focus on developing industrial real estate, especially logistics parks and small commercial units. Currently, it is completing a project in Wrocław in collaboration with the developer Frontier with an area of 10,000 m², which has been almost fully leased. It is also preparing other small commercial units at various locations in Poland. With Panattoni, DRFG has recently completed a logistics centre with an area of almost 48,000 m² in Sosnowiec that will be fully leased by the end of 2022. In 2023, a project near Poznań with an area of 38,000 m² will be finished. In addition, the group has projects with more than 345,000 m² of leasable space in a market value exceeding CZK 7bn in the acquisition phase, which it plans to complete in the next five years. ■

Nextview buys Brno's Mooza Inspire start-up

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Nextview, the European consulting partner of the Salesforce CRM platform, has purchased the Czech marketing start-up Mooza Inspire. Nextview has gained a position in the Czech and Polish markets with this acquisition. Brno-based Mooza now has teams in Warsaw, Cracow, and Prague. With 50 consultants and more than 150 certifications, Mooza is one of Salesforce Gold's leading partners in Central and Eastern Europe. ■

Primoco UAV sells two aircraft to a European client

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Primoco UAV has sold two unmanned aircraft worth EUR 1.7m to a European client. According to general director Ladislav Semetkovský, the Primoco UAV One 150 machines will help secure the external border of the Schengen Area. Furthermore, he specified that the aircraft were in absolute accordance with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) operating instructions. The company expects to conclude more contracts on aircraft supply with several new customers in the coming weeks, which will ensure the company's profitability in 2022. ■

FTMO acquires German FD Brokers and targets EU

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech trading platform FTMO acquires FD Brokers, a German company with Cypriot roots and offices in Spain and Bulgaria. The German firm offers online trading of stocks, forex, financial derivatives and other investment services. The value of the acquisition is in the lower hundreds of millions of CZK. With the purchase, FTMO will offer clients traditional brokerage services enabling trading with their own money in addition to simulated trading. The acquisition will enable FTMO to reach investors in Germany, Spain, Bulgaria, Cyprus and, thanks to passporting, in some other EU countries. However, there are plans to expand its services to other markets. The transaction is subject to regulatory approval. ■

US Miro acquires video conference startup Around

Friday, October 14 | ČIANEWS

The American company Miro has taken over the Czech-Slovak startup Around. The video conferencing startup announced that its product will soon feature several new collaboration features and an updated brand - Around by Miro Labs. ■

Credo closes CS4 fund with EUR 75m, invests in start-ups

Thursday, October 13 | ČIANEWS

Credo Ventures has announced closing its CS4 fund with EUR 75m. The fund will support start-ups in the region of Central and Eastern Europe focused on Pre-Seed to Series A. Since its first closure at the beginning of 2022, the fund has realised nine investments. It has gained new and returning investors – RSJ PE, Isomer, Cendana Capital, Aternus, Atomico, Sequoia Capital, the founder of UiPath, Avast, Adastra, Productboard, Rohlik.cz and Pale Fire Capital. In addition, Guillaume Fournier, Maciej Gnutek and Karolina Mrozkova have become general partners. ■

ČD Cargo: Mošnov to connect MSK with ports in Europe

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On October 19, 2022, Mošnov Terminal was ceremonially commissioned by Moravian-Silesian Regional (MSK) governor Ivo Vondrák (ANO), Ostrava mayor Tomáš Macura (ANO) and representatives of logistics firm owners. The combined transport terminal will be operated by Innofreight Czech Republic, Medlog Czech Republic, Budamar Logistics and ČD Cargo Logistics. Its construction was under the umbrella of Concens. ČD Cargo board chairman Tomáš Tóth said that the company was preparing several new projects in which Mošnov played an important role. The terminal will connect MSK with European ports. Its position provides one with access to the motorway network and first-class roads. It also offers a direct electrified connection to the railroad corridor. ■

HKK to distribute CZK 1.2bn to social services

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Hradec Králové Region (HKK) council approved the reallocation of the financial reserve of CZK 62m, which the region had prepared for the financing of social services in the region. In total, more than CZK 1.2bn will go to social services in 2022. In addition to the state budget, the users of social services, the HKK and municipalities in the region contribute to the financing of social services. The total financial support from the state, the region and municipalities this year amounted to more than CZK 1.8bn. The region also used the support of the European Social Fund for the development of social services in the amount of almost CZK 80m. ■

ÚOHS permits W & P/Innofreight to control inno4wood

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Office for the Protection of Competition (ÚOHS) has granted Innofreight Transportlogistik GmbH and Wood & Paper joint control of inno4wood GmbH. The latter will perform all functions of a separate economic unit in the long term. The merger is mainly in the field of freight forwarding services for the transport of wood by rail. The authority considers that the concentration will not lead to a significant impediment of competition. The decision has already become final. ■

ŠKODA invests over EUR 200m in Vrchlabí

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA AUTO has already produced over 4 million DQ200 direct-shift automatic transmissions in Vrchlabí, which are used throughout the VW Group. The carmaker has invested more than EUR 200m in this production over 10 years, mainly in digitalisation, Industry 4.0 technologies, and sustainability. The Vrchlabí plant is the first of ŠKODA AUTO's global production capacities with a neutral CO2 balance from 2020. ■

SZIF to allocate CZK 8.2bn to farmers

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The State Agricultural Intervention Fund (SZIF) has started issuing decisions on the Single Area Payment (SAPS), which is set by the European Union and the rate is set annually by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Czech Republic according to European Commission regulations. Immediately after sending the decision, regardless of the acquisition of legal force, the SZIF will pay advances in the amount of 70 %. This year's rate is CZK 3,213.91 per hectare. Applicants will receive the remaining part of the funds after December 1, 2022. More than 31,000 applications were submitted this year, and the fund will distribute more than CZK 8.2bn among them as part of advance payments. ■

For your notes

IROP to reimburse 11 ambulances to ZZS PAK

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IROP will reimburse the Pardubice Region Medical Emergency Service (ZZS PAK) for the purchase of 11 ambulances. The total cost of the project amounted to CZK 42.1m, 90% of which will be covered by subsidy funds. The governor of the Pardubice Region (PAK) Martin Netolický (ČSSD) specified that the rescuers now have eight large ambulances and three rendez-vous vehicles. The vehicles for the rendez-vous system are equipped with equipment for the installation of medical material and information technology to meet the conditions for providing medical care for patients. The information was made public by PAK. ■

Colliers: European real estate yields to average 8.8%

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The commercial real estate market is undergoing a new phase of revaluation, triggered by the slowing pace of investment activity in the sector. Colliers predicts that the resulting real estate market re-pricing, which will be influenced by the continued rise in interest rates, will occur over the next 12 to 24 months. On average, yields are expected to shift by 75 basis points, equivalent to about a 15% reduction in capital value. The magnitude of the changes ranges from 0% to 30% and their timing will vary from country to country. The shock that the market is now feeling can be largely absorbed, according to Colliers. Over a 10-year period, an investor can expect an average return of 8.8% for European property across its sectors. ■

ŠKODA registrations in EU+EFTA+UK grow by 41%

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ŠKODA AUTO recorded a 15.3% y/y decline in registrations in the EU+EFTA+UK markets to 401,000 new passenger vehicles in the first nine months of 2022. Its market share fell from 5.2% to 4.8%. In September alone, the brand reported 54,471 registrations, up 41.0% y/y. The market share rose from 4.0% to 5.2%, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA). Total passenger car registrations in the EU rose by 9.6% y/y to 787,870 in September. They fell by 9.9% to 6 784 318 by September. ■

TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

Arbes supplies mobile investing app to Raiffeisenbank

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Arbes Technologies has provided Raiffeisenbank with a mobile application for retail clients. As of September 2022, it enables them to invest in securities – shares, ETF, investment certificates and mutual funds. If successful, other banks within the Raiffeisenbank International Group on the European market will start offering this application to their clients. The application for smartphones can be downloaded for free from the App Store and Google Play platforms. ■

EP: 3.5 million chargers to be built in EU by 2030

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Parliament (EP) has agreed that by 2025 there will be a charging station for electric vehicles for every 60 km of motorway. By 2030, more than 3.5 million charging stations are expected to be built across the EU, roughly ten times as many as now. The regulation is subject to approval by member states. MEP Mikuláš Peksa (Pirates) said that the European transport sector currently accounts for more than 27% of EU emissions and if we are serious about decarbonising it, we need to guarantee adequate infrastructure based on common rules. ■

ŠKODA sold 17,059 cars with alternative drive in Germany

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of registrations of new ŠKODA AUTO passenger cars with alternative drive in Germany for January to September 2022 fell year-on-year from 24,601 to 17,059. This was reported by the German Federal Motor Transport Authority (KBA), adding that they accounted for 15.7% of total ŠKODA new car sales. A year earlier, the figure was 21.1%. Registrations of electric vehicles totalled 14,773 units. The Czech carmaker's total registrations in Germany weakened from 116,729 to 108,747 vehicles in the nine months. ■

Thein Industry secures hydrogen vans for Packeta

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Thein Industry arranged a test of HYVIA hydrogen vans for Packeta Group, which also includes Zásilkovna. This is the first coordination of Czech companies to use hydrogen in commercial road transport. The test period will run until the end of 2022, during which Packeta will test the hydrogen Master Van H2-TECH from HYVIA, a Renault Group company, in Germany in real operation. The result of the test will be a case study, on the basis of which the companies will discuss further steps to develop hydrogen mobility in freight transport, including in the Czech Republic. ■

App Ultima Payments connects payments, charging stations

Monday, October 17 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak Ultima Payments is entering the Czech market with the Smart Fuel Pass platform. The mobile application connects the unique payment system with electric car charging stations and at the same time provides users with up-to-date information on charging status and remote access to chargers. Global Payments, a provider of payment services and technologies, became a platform partner. It implemented a payment gateway into the system, through which money is topped up to the account in the application. ■

For your notes

Tatra Trucks to present 2 Phoenix vehicles at Bauma trade fair

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tatra Trucks and its partners will present two Tatra Phoenix model series vehicles for the construction and mining industry at Bauma. Specifically, the models will be a swap body carrier on a Tatra Phoenix 6x6 chassis and a heavy tipper on a Tatra Phoenix 8x8 chassis. Bauma will take place in Munich on October 24-30, 2022. ■

RegioJet launches pre-sale of tickets for Christmas period

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

RegioJet is launching advance ticket sales for the Christmas period and the beginning of 2023, including European destinations such as Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava or Košice. From December 11, 2022, when the new timetable comes into force, some travel times will also be shortened. For pre-Christmas trips to European destinations, in addition to train connections, people can also use RegioJet bus connections, which will take them to, for example, Christmas markets in Dresden, Berlin or Munich. ■

Eurowag's EVA enables new payment of tolls in Germany

Tuesday, October 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The EVA on-board unit from Eurowag now enables the payment of tolls on German roads. Through this solution, drivers can now pay tolls in Hungary, Belgium, Austria and Poland in addition to Germany. The unit has advanced telematics and the FuelGuard function, which ensures protection against refueling fraud. The provider of integrated road transport solutions in Europe plans to gradually add more countries. ■

Upheal using AI gains USD 1.05m development investment

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech-American startup Upheal has received an investment of USD 1.05m. The company offers a tool that uses artificial intelligence (AI) to create notes from conversations, understand them, sort them according to context and provide a comprehensive summary. It is used, among others, by therapists, for whom it allows them to focus purely on the client. The Healtech startup will use the resources for further development. ■

Profika: Robotisation to increase production efficiency

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The return on investment in a machine without robotisation is 25.5 months. The investment in acquiring a machine with robotisation is returned in 27.2 months. The robotisation itself pays off in less than two months. A model analysis by CNC machine tools supplier Profika also shows that thanks to robotisation, production efficiency is increased, which makes the return on investment faster. The problem is a shortage of qualified employees ready to control instruments for automation and robotisation and an insufficient link between schools and industry needs. According to the International Federation of Robotics, the Czech Republic is 21st in the world in the number of robots per number of classic employees. ■

NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

Slovak GNI saw a year-on-year increase of 5.4%

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, the gross national income (GNI) of the Slovak Republic reached EUR 97.3bn, which is 5.4% more year on year. The Slovak Statistical Office stated that the data on GNI for the previous period from 2010 were adjusted according to international methodology in the interval from -0.3% to +1.4% of GNI. ■

SR's public deficit reduced to 5.46% of GDP by data revision

Thursday, October 20 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In 2021, the public finance deficit of the Slovak Republic decreased to 5.46% of GDP (EUR 5.4bn). The Slovak Statistical Office stated that the public administration debt in 2021 reached EUR 61.3bn, which was 62.19% of GDP. Both indicators improved as part of the current autumn specification of the state's economic results compared to the spring estimate for last year. The most significant positive effect on the change in the deficit was mainly the higher collection of corporate income taxes (by EUR 650m). The change in the reporting of transactions related to PPP projects had, on the other hand, a negative effect. Based on the recommendations of Eurostat, the Slovak Statistical Office adjusted the recording of transactions, which led to an increase in the deficit by EUR 136m in 2021 and by EUR 55m in 2020. ■

Košice Airport handled 161,655 passengers in summer

Wednesday, October 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Košice Airport handled 161,655 passengers in the summer season from June 5 to September 29, 2022. In 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic, the number of passengers was 184,742, the highest in the airport's history. For the first nine months of this year, the airport handled 446,065 passengers, up 329,987 y/y. ■

For your notes

