



## C&W: Pařížská is most expensive shopping street in CEE

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The most expensive shopping street in the Czech Republic in 2022 is Pařížská Street in Prague. It has replaced the previously most expensive street in the country, Na Příkopě. In the Main Streets Across the World ranking by real estate consultancy Cushman & Wakefield (C&W), Pařížská ranked 17th. In the CEE region, it ranks first. The survey compares the highest achievable rent in Pařížská to EUR 2,719 per m2 per year as of 3Q 2022, or approximately EUR 227 per m2 per month. The same shopping streets in the same countries remain at the top of the ranking as in the last survey, but their ranking has changed: the US has replaced Hong Kong in first place. Italy has overtaken the UK and France, making Via Montepulciano the most expensive shopping street in Europe. ■

## Colliers: Commercial property investments at EUR 7.5bn

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The volume of investments in commercial real estate reached a total of EUR 7.5bn (+3 %) in the CEE region for 1-3Q 2022. Colliers further reported that it could reach up to 10 billion euros by the end of 2022. Czech capital accounted for 56 % of the investment volume in the Czech Republic. In terms of countries, Poland leads the way, having so far secured 58 % of volumes within the CEE region in 2022. Colliers Regional Director Kevin Turpin anticipates that 4Q 2022 is likely to see less activity than usual due to lower supply, increased funding costs and ongoing price revisions. Investors in commercial real estate will benefit somewhat from higher inflation in rents, he said, but will also be affected by higher debt and operating costs. ■

## Řehka: CR must prepare for wars, conflict is escalating

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS

The escalation potential of the war in Ukraine continues to grow, and even the most serious scenarios cannot be ruled out. Chief of the General Staff Karel Řehka stated that if there was a clash between Russia and NATO, the Czech Republic would be affected immediately and the Czech army would be an active participant from the first minute. He added that a number of weapon systems that are destroying Ukraine will also reach the territory of the Czech Republic. According to him, the domestic army must prepare for large-scale wars against an advanced adversary. He added that despite the huge increase in the budget, the army will not have enough resources for an ideal solution to all problems. ■

## Share of cos. with high taxes and profits growing in CR

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

51 % of companies reported a zero or negative economic result in 2020, compared to fewer than 49 % last year. This is stated by the analysis of the consulting company Dun & Bradstreet, with the fact that the income tax for 2021 has been paid by the largest share of companies in the last seven years. Since 2015, the share of companies that pay more than CZK 1m in income tax has also been continuously growing. All joint stock companies and limited liability companies that published their financial statements between 2015 and 2021 were included in Dun & Bradstreet's analysis. ■

## P. Fiala to also discuss energy security with V4 PMs

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 24, 2022, Prime Minister Petr Fiala (ODS) will attend the meeting of the prime ministers of the V4 countries in Košice. This is their first meeting within the framework of the Slovak presidency, which began in July. Among the main topics of the plenary session will be energy security, the war in Ukraine and a discussion of current challenges in the field of migration. ■

## Edenred: 8 % of restaurants have decided to close down

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Due to the economic crisis and extremely high inflation, almost 8 % of gastroenterprises have firmly decided to quit the hospitality business. A smaller number of the restaurants will close immediately, the rest within a few months. Less than a third of businesses are considering closing due to other possible complications. Almost 11 % of companies say they are more likely to quit. This follows from a survey by Edenred, which is part of the European FOOD program. Half of gastroenterprises are determined to raise prices in 2022. Another 38 % are considering raising prices, less than 12 % want not to raise prices. Almost 40 % of restaurants have already decided to increase their prices by more than 6 %. Four out of ten Czechs are not willing to accept any further price increases. If by the end of 2022 the price of food rises by ten crowns at most, almost 28 % of respondents will continue to go to restaurants. ■

## J. Síkela: Gas consumption down almost 15 % on last year

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS

This year's 46th week of the year was the coldest in at least the last three years. Nevertheless, gas consumption in the Czech Republic fell by almost 15 % compared to last year. Minister of Industry and Trade Josef Síkela (STAN) stated this, saying that compared to 2020, consumption is 19 % lower. The goal of achieving a total of 800 million m3 of savings in the period from October 2022 to the end of March 2023 has already been almost half met by the Czech Republic. Consumption in this period is still 26 % lower than last year. J. Síkela added that, despite the low temperatures, the reservoirs are still almost 99 % full and stocks are 13 % higher than the average of the previous three years. ■

For your notes

## AČCKA: Demand for ski vacations up to 20 % higher

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Travel agencies record a 15-20% year-on-year increase in sales of stays in the mountains for the 2022/2023 season. The dominant destinations are Italy, Austria and France for longer stays of 4-6 nights, usually in a hotel with half board and wellness. Data from the Association of Czech Travel Agencies (AČCKA) also show that some customers are afraid of price increases during the season, so they want to fix the prices of winter stays by purchasing a holiday. Despite the increased energy prices, Czech customers also show a greater interest in renting cottages and chalets in the domestic mountains. Total sales volumes do not reach the pre-pandemic level of 2019. ■

## M. Kupka: EU Council and EP agree on secure connectivity

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS

The Council of the EU and the European Parliament have reached an agreement on a regulation establishing the EU Secure Connectivity Programme. Its aim is to build an infrastructure of many sets of satellites that will provide secure and reliable connectivity for European users. Transport Minister Martin Kupka (ODS) said the programme not only aims to benefit public administrations and EU institutions but will also enable the private sector to provide commercial services, thus contributing to the competitiveness of European industry. Mr. Kupka added that this was a major transport achievement under the Czech EU Presidency. ■

## CNB approved SOLEK HOLDING SE bonds worth CZK 5bn

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank has approved the EU growth prospectus for SOLEK HOLDING SE in the form of a base prospectus for the bonds issued under the 2020 offering programme. The total nominal value of the outstanding bonds is CZK 5bn. The duration of the programme is 5 years. ■

## ACEA: Car sales up 28.5% in CR, 30.5% in SR

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The number of new passenger car registrations in the Czech Republic fell by 8.2% y/y to 174,494 between January and October 2022. In October alone, 16,283 cars were registered (+28.5%). In Slovakia, registrations rose by 1.8% to 64,486 cars over the ten months. In October, registrations increased by 30.5% to 7,528 vehicles. In the EU as a whole, October sales increased by 12.2% to 745,855 vehicles. ■

## Moore: 25% of managers in CR encountered the term ESG

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Entrepreneurship in accordance with ESG principles is less developed in the Czech Republic compared to Western countries. A survey conducted by Moore Czech Republic shows that 25% of senior managers and senior executives from medium and large companies have encountered the concept of ESG (Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance). Currently, only a few hundred companies are required by law to conduct ESG reporting. However, by 2026, the legislation will cover approximately 2300-2800 entities. Non-financial reporting will also have to be issued by listed SMEs in 2027. The market volume of ESG consulting will thus move into the upper hundreds of millions per year in three to five years from the current tens of millions. Globally, according to Moore Global's data, companies taking a proactive approach to ESG have increased profits by 9.1% over the past three years. This is two-and-a-half times more compared to a 3.7% increase for subjects lagging behind in ESG. ■

## MŽP to support measures against flood and landslides

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Ministry of the Environment (MŽP) and the State Environmental Fund (SFŽP) are launching two new calls for proposals from the Operational Programme Environment (OPŽP). They will become a source of funding for preventive measures against floods (allocation: CZK 150m) and solutions to slope instability caused by natural phenomena (CZK 100m). Subsidies for adaptation to the impacts of climate change are one of the main areas of support in the new OPŽP programming period with an allocation of over CZK 61bn. ■

## Egg prices up 22% in 5 weeks, potatoes up 15%

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

A kilo of pork roast in the 46th week of 2022 compared to the 41st week rose by an average of 2% to CZK 165.37. Pasteurised semi-skimmed milk was 1.95% higher at CZK 25.58 per litre. A kilogram of apples became cheaper to CZK 34.93 (-1.38%). Caraway bread became 0.15% more expensive per kilogram to CZK 39.7. The price of a kilogram of butter increased by 0.78% to CZK 267.94. Hen eggs rose the most, by 22.36% (10 eggs for CZK 58.55). The second highest price increase concerned potatoes, which went up by 14.51% to CZK 18.31/kg, according to data published by the Czech Statistical Office. ■

## AURES: Used station wagons, SUVs and MPVs in SR at 23,500 units

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The offer of used station wagon, SUV and MPV models on the Slovak market reached almost 23,500 vehicles in November 2022. It is almost 70% of the total offer of used cars. This stems from the statistics of the AURES Holdings group, the operator of the AAA Auto and Mototechna chains. The most advertised station wagon is the ŠKODA OCTAVIA (16.3%). In the case of MPVs, it is the Volkswagen Touran (15%) and in the case of SUVs, it is the Volkswagen Tiguan (3%). ■

For your notes

## LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

### EP approved rules for gender equality in company management

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Parliament has approved a directive on the representation of women in the management and supervisory bodies of listed companies. By the end of June 2026, at least 40% of the positions of members of the supervisory board/non-executive members of the board of directors or 33% of all positions of members of the board of directors should be filled by persons of the underrepresented gender. These are mostly women. The directive does not apply to SMEs with fewer than 250 employees. It will enter into force 20 days after publication in the Official Journal of the EU. Member States will implement the new rules within two years. ■

### Government will discuss whistleblower protection law

Friday, November 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Prime Minister Petr Fiala's (ODS) government will appoint a member of the Management Board of Správa železnic on November 23, 2022. It will also discuss, among other things, a draft law on the protection of whistleblowers. It is a transposition of Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of persons who report infringements of Union law. The government will also discuss information on the procurement of the Credit Line - conclusion of amendments to contract no. 2020/07824 and no. 2020/07823. ■

### EP approved Critical Infrastructure Directive

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The European Parliament (EP) approved the Critical Infrastructure Directive. It was proposed by the vice president of the European Parliament, Michal Šimečka. Its goal is to better prepare airports, government buildings and key systems in the energy and healthcare sectors for crises such as wars or pandemics. ■

### MEPs recognise Russia as state sponsor of terrorism

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 23, 2022, the European Parliament (EP) adopted a resolution on the latest developments in Russia's brutal aggression against Ukraine, and MEPs recognized Russia as a state sponsor of terrorism and one that uses terrorist means. The EP therefore called on the European Union to further isolate the Russian Federation in the international environment, such as the UN Security Council, and demands further restrictions on diplomatic relations with Russia. MEPs also called on EU Member States in the Council to complete work on the ninth package of sanctions against Moscow as a matter of urgency. ■

### Government approves Act of Whistleblowers Protection

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Government of the Czech Republic has approved a draft law on the protection of whistleblowers. The aim of the draft is to provide protection to a wide range of persons performing work in the private and public sectors in case they report illegal conduct of which they have become aware in connection with their work. The law is not intended to apply to misdemeanours or anonymous reports. The proposal implements Directive (EU) 2019/1937 of the European Parliament and of the Council of October 23, 2019 on the protection of persons who report infringements of EU law. ■

## SUBSIDIES, INVESTMENTS, EU MARKET

### Maersk, Raben and Exyte lease space in Panattoni Park

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Panattoni Park Teplice South is fully occupied, with the last spaces to be leased to Maersk, Raben, and Exyte. Danish Maersk will take over the 14,000 m2 space from which it will distribute batteries for electric vehicles. A further 312 m2 will be used as offices and sanitary facilities. The Dutch Raben will occupy 2,500 m2 of space. It will use it for cross-dock operations. Germany's Exyte Technology will use the 6,350 m2 of space to manufacture clean room technology. Panattoni Park Teplice South was created thanks to the revitalisation of a brownfield site in cooperation with the Accolade Group. ■

### EFG to expand biogas production for CZK 120m

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Energy financial group (EFG) will purchase three new biogas to biomethane units in the next two years. Together with EFG Rapotín BPS, they are to deliver local biomethane to the network with a total annual capacity exceeding 90 GWh. Investments in the purchase of units, including construction work, are to exceed CZK 120m. The existing EFG Vyškov BPS biogas station will first undergo modernization and expansion. In the European Union, as part of the REPowerEU plan, biomethane production is expected to increase to 35 billion m3 by 2030 as a sustainable and locally produced alternative to the roughly 20 % of natural gas imported from Russia. ■

For your notes

## IMMOFINANZ discusses with CPI raising S IMMO stake to 50%+

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

IMMOFINANZ AG is entering into negotiations with its major shareholder CPI Property Group to acquire shares in S IMMO AG. IMMOFINANZ currently directly owns approximately 26.49% of S IMMO. CPI directly owns 52.7% of S IMMO. This shareholding may increase further as a result of CPI's mandatory takeover bid for S IMMO. The potential acquisition of S IMMO shares by IMMOFINANZ from CPI is expected to take place by the end of this year. It would involve at least 17,305 million S IMMO shares (approximately 23.51 %) to create a controlling stake. The market price will be negotiated and confirmed by an independent fairness opinion. ■

## Allen & Overy advised ČS in CZK 370m Mixit financing

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Law firm Allen & Overy has advised Česká spořitelna (CS) on the financing of the acquisition of the target company, including the refinancing of its existing indebtedness, for a total amount of CZK 370m. The buyer is a company from the Mixit group. The target company owns a real estate complex in Prague, which the Mixit group intends to use for its expansion. Mixit.cz is the first Czech service that offers customers the possibility to mix their own muesli mix. ■

## Allwyn completes acquisition of UK lottery operator

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

KKCG group's Allwyn Entertainment has completed the acquisition of Camelot, which holds the licence to operate the UK National Lottery. Camelot was previously owned by the Canadian pension fund Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Upon completion of the acquisition, Camelot UK Lotteries Limited will become a wholly owned subsidiary of Allwyn. The acquisition is expected to be completed in Q1 2023, subject to regulatory approvals. Terms of the transaction have not been disclosed. ■

## CREIF's performance at 6.14%; has 5 properties in Poland

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS

The Czech Real Estate Investment Fund (CREIF) recorded a performance of 0.46% in October 2022. Over the past 12 months, the fund's performance has reached 6.14%. The portfolio comprises 34 properties in which 13,500 clients have invested. The total value of the properties is CZK 7.31bn. The portfolio includes, among others, the Polish Retail Park Jozefoslaw in Warsaw with an area of almost 4,000 m2. CREIF owns a total of five properties in Poland. ■

## UBM had revenues of EUR 319m, plans Vienna district

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

UBM Development reported revenues of EUR 318.9m for the three quarters of 2022. Net profit was EUR 14.3m. The group slightly increased liquidity during H1 2022. As of September 30, it had more than EUR 358m in cash and an equity ratio of over 33%. UBM continues to pursue wood-hybrid construction projects. In Vienna, e.g., it has obtained planning approval for the LeopoldQuartier urban district. The developer is currently building or planning 180,000 m2 of such buildings. In the Czech Republic, the company is preparing the third phase of the Arcus City project in Prague-Řeporyje, as ČIANEWS reported. ■

## IMMOFINANZ shows growth in portfolio to EUR 5.5bn

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Immofinanz reported rental income of EUR 216.9m for 1-3Q 2022. Asset management results improved by 3.2% to EUR 168.4m and cash flow from operations (FFO) increased by more than 15% to EUR 115.9m. Net profit was EUR 248.6m. With an equity ratio of 58.0% and a conservative leverage with a net LTV of 33.7%, IMMOFINANZ has a strong capital base. The portfolio value increased by 6.5% to EUR 5.5bn at the end of September 2022, covering 260 properties. Occupancy remained at 94.0%. ■

## CTP: Diehl Controls is first tenant of Brasov industrial park in Romania

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

CTP, a developer and operator of logistics and industrial real estate in continental Europe, has acquired the first tenant for its new business park with an area of 50,000 m2 in the Romanian city of Brasov. It is the German technology manufacturer Diehl Controls. It will have a research and development center and a production plant with an area of 18,000 m2 there. Its initial investment was EUR 15m and it is to be increased by another EUR 40m within 10 years. ■

## Z. Nekula approves rates of national support for farmers

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Agriculture Minister Zdeněk Nekula (KDU-ČSL) approved the rates of transitional national support for 2022. Farmers will receive them for the care of agricultural land (CZK 116/ha), cultivation of hops (CZK 3,160/ha) and potatoes for starch (CZK 1,056/ha), and for breeding cows (CZK 72/unit), sheep and goats (CZK 45/unit). Transitional national aid is paid by the State Agricultural Intervention Fund. Applications submitted in 2022 are the last ones for which these aids can be granted, as from 2023 the transitional national aids are no longer part of the new Common Agricultural Policy. ■

For your notes

## Czech companies buy photovoltaics mainly in Poland

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The interest in solar panels and heat pumps is not waning, even though their prices are rising by tens of percent and Czech business customers are starting to buy them across the EU, according to a survey by merX, a European online marketplace for businesses, which found that demand for these products is increasing, especially from Poland, but also from Romania and Hungary. The reason for this, according to merX's sales manager Ladislav Derych, is that in Poland the required goods are in stock and the zloty has a favourable exchange rate. ■

## CNB approves Aequitas Capital Investment's CZK 1bn bond

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank has approved Aequitas Capital Investment's application for approval of a Union prospectus for growth bonds in the form of a base prospectus. The bonds are issued under the 2021 offering programme with a maximum total nominal value of issued and outstanding bonds of CZK 1bn and a programme duration of 10 years. The approved prospectus forms an integral part of this statement. ■

## Czech startup Supernova.io raises investment of USD 4.8m

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Czech startup Supernova.io has raised an investment of USD 4.8m. The investment round was led by Wing Venture Capital. EQT Ventures and Czech Kaya VC also participated. Czech company Credo Ventures has previously invested in the company. Supernova creates a SaaS tool mainly for graphic and design activities. It will use the investment to develop its technology and expand its team. ■

## CNB approves Aequitas Capital bonds for CZK 1bn

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank (CNB) has approved Aequitas Capital Investment's EU growth prospectus in the form of a base prospectus for the bonds issued under the 2021 offering programme. The maximum aggregate nominal value of the outstanding bonds is CZK 1bn. The duration of the programme is 10 years. ■

## RSBC Defence fund raised over CZK 250m in Q3

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

Investors invested more than CZK 250m in the RSBC Defence fund during Q3 2022. The fund is the only qualified investor fund of RSBC SICAV. Its depositary is UniCredit Bank Czech Republic and Slovakia. It focuses exclusively on the defence industry and provides a return of 8% or 9% p.a. Investors will have an up to 30% share in the profit the fund makes above the return secured by the full market value of its main asset, RSBC Defence. RSBC Defence fully owns Slovenian arms factory AREX, RSBC Holding Group reported. With RSBC Defence, the Group expanded the investment fund division. The fund plans to value investors' money by taking advantage of acquisition opportunities on the European market. ■

## Tedom is supplier for VW's MAN Truck & Bus

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Tedom became a supplier to MAN Truck & Bus following an audit by ŠKODA AUTO. The extension of cooperation will mainly concern the refurbishment of cylinder heads, engine blocks and other components of internal combustion engines. MAN Truck & Bus, the current supplier to Tedom, will also be a customer. MAN Truck & Bus and ŠKODA AUTO are both members of the Volkswagen Group. ■

## Photon Energy Group buys first utility scale in Australia

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Photon Energy Group has bought the rights to build a 9.8 MWp solar system with 10 MWh of battery energy storage on a site in Boggabri, Australia. This is the first utility-scale project involving a photovoltaic power plant with storage that the group has undertaken. Photon Energy Group technical director and Photon Energy Australia CEO Michael Gartner said the project will make a significant contribution to the New South Wales Government's target to reduce CO2 emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to 2005. In the future, the group plans to expand the solution to its European markets. ■

## Allwyn secured EUR 1.6bn in senior financing

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Lottery operator Allwyn has entered into a new EUR 1.6bn senior financing agreement with a syndicate of international banks. The financing is split between EUR 441m of amortising term loans due 2027, EUR 441m of one-off term loans due 2028, EUR 300m revolving credit due in 2027 and a GBP 380m multipurpose facility which can be drawn as guarantees or term loans maturing in 2027. The company said the financing significantly expands its maturity profile, provides a flexible solution to fund the upfront costs of the UK National Lottery licence and creates additional liquidity to support further growth and resilience. ■

## Vueling Airlines to fly from Prague to Bilbao from July 2023

Thursday, November 24 | ČIANEWS

Vueling Airlines will operate a route from Prague Airport to Bilbao from July 2023. The airport also announced that direct flights would operate every Thursday and Sunday. The route will be operated by an Airbus A320 for 180 passengers. The airline started ticket sales on November 24, 2022. ■

For your notes

## JMK to spend CZK 4.2bn on transport

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

The draft regional budget for 2023 with revenues of CZK 14.3bn and expenditures of CZK 15.8bn was approved by the councillors of the South Moravian Region (JMK) on November 23, 2022. The region included CZK 1.1bn in savings from previous years or a loan for purchasing railway units for CZK 701m. Commenting on the budget deficit, Governor Jan Grollich (KDU-ČSL) said that the total investments increased by CZK 160m and funding to the non-profit sector by CZK 56m, and funds for road repairs and reconstruction to more than CZK 420m. A total of CZK 617m was proposed to finance subsidy programmes (+CZK 131m y/y). The largest volume of funds (CZK 4.2bn) is directed to transport. Almost CZK 1.3bn is earmarked for education. In addition, the region counts to repay loans from the European Investment Bank (CZK 274m). The Regional Council will approve the budget on December 15, 2022. ■

## Millenium of JRD launches plasma gasification reactor

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

Millenium Technologies, a member of the JRD Group, has introduced a fourth-generation plasma gasification reactor (R4) at the Dubá Science and Technology Park. After three prototypes, it is now fully commercially operational. The technology environmentally disposes of a wide range of waste, including hazardous waste. It can serve as a source of energy - synthesis gas - for example, for heating plants. It processes 500 kg of waste per hour in a completely emission-free way. The waste is vitrified slag - an inert material that can be used in construction or road infrastructure. The cost of the reactor itself is CZK 80m-EUR 250m. The return-on-investment ranges from three to five years. ■

## ČEZ ESCO registers three-fold growth in demand for PV

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

ČEZ ESCO's revenues in the Czech Republic and Slovakia increased by 55% to CZK 6.2bn in the first nine months of 2022. The figures are backed by a threefold year-on-year increase in demand for rooftop photovoltaics from households, companies, and public administrations. In addition to organic growth, the acquisitions of new companies such as EP Rožnov and CAPEXUS contributed to the positive result. Kamil Čermák, CEO of ČEZ ESCO, added that the company now has approximately one hundred large-scale PV projects in the pipeline. ČEZ intends to build 6 GW of new renewable energy sources by 2030 as part of its Clean Energy Tomorrow strategy. ■

## ČNB reported loss of CZK 282bn, foreign liabilities of CZK 288bn

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Czech National Bank (ČNB) reported an economic result of CZK -282.37bn as of November 20, 2022. This is according to the 10-day balance sheet published by the central bank. Total assets reached CZK 3.31bn. Deposits in foreign financial institutions and institutions were at the level of CZK 688.39bn. Liabilities to the International Monetary Fund amounted to CZK 142.73bn. Foreign liabilities amounted to CZK 287.75bn. ■

## Trinity Bank: Hungarian MOL discovered oil field near Budapest

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Hungarian petrochemical company MOL has discovered a significant oil deposit outside Budapest at a depth of 2,100 metres. It may help address fuel shortages resulting from fuel price caps. Production from the well, the third largest in Hungary, will initially be 600 barrels a day, but estimates suggest it could be increased to 1,000 barrels a day. The discovery could increase Hungary's total oil production by around 5%, according to Trinity Bank. ■

## M. Krajíček is AKCENTA CZ's sales director for Czech market

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Martin Krajíček became Sales Director for the Czech market at AKCENTA CZ. His tasks will include working on the digital transformation of the company and setting up more effective cooperation with the network of sales representatives. M. Krajíček has worked e.g. in ERSTE Corporate Banking of Česká spořitelna, in AVANT or in the consumer cooperative ARTESA. ■

## ŠKODA registrations in EU+EFTA+UK up 47.5% in October

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Carmaker ŠKODA AUTO recorded an 11.7% y/y decline in registrations in the EU+EFTA+UK markets to 445,332 new passenger vehicles in the first ten months of 2022. Its market share fell from 5.1% to 4.9%. In October alone, the brand reported 44,777 registrations, up 47.5% y/y. Market share rose from 3.8% to 4.9%, according to data from the European Automobile Manufacturers Association (ACEA). ■

## DPP to test hydrogen bus from Škoda Electric

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Prague Public Transport Company (DPP) will start testing the first hydrogen bus from Škoda Electric. The test of the leased bus will take place for a period of 24 months with an option to extend the lease for another two years. DPP will use it on regular bus routes in public transport, as well as for presentation purposes and for handling trips to verify the operating parameters. The lease price is CZK 10.5m. As ČIANEWS has already reported, the operation of the hydrogen filling station in K Barrandovu Street will be provided by Orlen Unipetrol RPA. ■

For your notes

## CZC.cz invested CZK 59m in SW and expanded no. of outlets

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

In the financial year ending March 31, 2022, CZC.cz switched, in accordance with EU Directive 2019/2161 on consumer protection, to a uniform methodology for calculating discounts from the lowest price for the last 30 days. The electronics retailer's annual report also shows that it posted a turnover of CZK 5.34bn for the fiscal year. The company further stated that the year-on-year drop in sales by 11% was caused by the effects of the pandemic. The company fulfilled approximately 1.4m orders and served almost 700,000 customers. The best results were achieved by the computer category (+6%), the Smart segment (+14%) and CZC.Lab (25%). The seller introduced a new category CZC.Health in the e-shop, integrated the Mailbox service and expanded the number of collection points by another 4,400. Currently, there are approximately 5,000 of them. Investments in improving the website and other software amounted to CZK 59m. ■

## SIKO KOUPELNY investing into software, expanding online

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

SIKO KOUPELNY is investing in software development. On the one hand in its e-shop but also in a tool for 3D design and planning of kitchens and bathrooms. In addition to covering the Czech Republic, the company also plans online sales in other European countries in the future. This follows from the annual report for the year 2021, with the fact that it reported a turnover of CZK 4.72bn and an operating profit of CZK 209.77m. ■

## TRENDS, DIGITALISATION AND INNOVATION

### Photon Energy launches B2B e-commerce platform

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Photon Energy Technology CEE, a wholesale distributor of photovoltaic components in Central and Eastern Europe, has launched a B2B e-commerce platform. The e-shop is part of the group's digital transformation strategy. It aims to complement traditional sales channels, expand and diversify the company's customer base, and speed up and reduce the cost of business transactions for installers on the platform, which is available 24/7. Existing clients will be automatically migrated to the platform, while new business customers can register. ■

### Primoco UAV to deliver 5 One 150 aircraft to Europe

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Primoco UAV has signed a new contract for the delivery of five One 150 drones to a European client for a total value of EUR 3.65m. The aircraft has a range of 1,800 km and fully automatic take-off and landing. A week ago, the company announced the sale of eight of these drones to a non-European customer, with an option for a further 16 drones. The total value of all contracts in H2 2022 exceeds EUR 12m (CZK 300m). The company's shares have appreciated by almost 12% on the PX Start market of the Prague Stock Exchange year-to-date. ■

### Smart! from Mall offers free shipping on selected items until Jan 24

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

The online marketplace, Mall.cz, continues its integration with Polish Allegro. It is bringing the Smart! service to the Czech Republic, which will allow customers to save on transport. From November 24, 2022, all registered customers have the option of free delivery to delivery points. Free shipping will be automatically applied to every purchase with a minimum value of CZK 299. The offer applies to millions of products in the assortment, including partner e-shops. The event will last until January 24, 2023. ■

### T-Mobile offers VoLTE service to customers abroad

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

T-Mobile is now making VoLTE service available to its customers abroad. VoLTE offers routing of calls and SMS over the LTE/4G data network, providing users not only the fastest connection and high sound quality, but also the ability to call and date at the same time. VoLTE calls do not consume any data, so customers do not need to purchase a data package while abroad. They will pay the same prices for calls and SMS as for 2G/3G network calls, according to their plan. ■

### J. Lipavský will address cybersecurity at EEA Council

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

On November 23, 2022, at the meeting of the Council of the European Economic Area (EEA), Minister of Foreign Affairs Jan Lipavský (Pirates) will discuss cybersecurity and future support for Ukraine. The representatives will also address the energy transformation and the safety or protection of critical infrastructure. The Council is chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iceland, Thórdís Kolbrún R. Gylfadóttir. J. Lipavský will be co-chairman. ■

### Air Baltic to increase number of Prague - Riga flights

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS

Latvian airline airBaltic will increase the number of frequencies on the Prague-Riga route from May 2023. It will fly to the capital of Latvia every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Prague Airport informed about this. ■

For your notes

## Regiojet transported 60,000+ pax on Prague-Przemysl line

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

More than 60,000 passengers have already travelled on Regiojet's night long-distance train from Prague to Przemysl, Poland, which is connected to the Ukrainian Railways, in the first eight months since its launch in March 2022. The company said it was expanding the choice of classes on the line. Passengers can now purchase their own compartment and there are dedicated compartments for women only. The price of a Prague - Lviv ticket for a seated compartment starts at CZK 699 and for a sleeper compartment at CZK 999. The first train on the Prague - Przemysl route departed on March 1, 2022 as a humanitarian link between Ukraine and the Czech Republic. RegioJet trains consisting of sleeper and freight cars carried Ukrainian citizens, mainly mothers with children, and humanitarian cargo. In cooperation with People in Need, more than 5,000 tonnes of humanitarian aid were transported. ■

## OP PIK to subsidize Contipro project

Saturday, November 19 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Contipro's GLP Testing R&D Centre project will enable the company to leapfrog the research and development of new hyaluronic acid-based products. 30 state-of-the-art and cutting-edge instruments will be deployed to help increase the potential for potential innovations and the number of patents. In connection with the project, the company will increase the laboratory space at its Dolní Dobrouč site by 500 m<sup>2</sup> and recruit new qualified employees. The project, with a budget of EUR 60m, will provide a new workforce. It was supported by the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation for Competitiveness (OP PIK) and won the Ministry of Industry and Trade's Business Project of the Year 2021 award. ■

## GFI Software: 67% of organisations run up to 10 apps

Wednesday, November 23 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

In the Czech Republic and Slovakia, 67% of organisations run up to 10 business applications, 26% use 11 to 20 and 7% use more than 20 applications. 50% of respondents are not aware of any performance problems with critical applications, 40% experience problems on a daily basis and 10% prioritise their applications. The GFI Software survey also showed that 46% of organizations globally run up to 10 business applications, 36% run 11 to 20 applications, and 10% run 20 to 30 applications. No performance issues with mission-critical applications are reported by 46% of global respondents, 35% experience issues on a daily basis, and 19% prioritize their applications. ■

## NEWS FROM SLOVAKIA

### MPRV SR will ask EC to raise support for food manufacturers by EUR 70m

Friday, November 18 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

Slovak Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MPRV SR) is currently launching a new project call for growers in special crop production under sub-measure 4.1 worth EUR 50m. For food producers, it has prepared a state aid scheme with an allocation of EUR 10m. The call will be launched on November 21, 2022 and applications will be paid before the end of 2022. The Ministry will also ask the European Commission to increase the support for investment projects for food producers from the planned EUR 170m to EUR 240m under sub-measure 4.2. The Agricultural Payments Agency (PPA) has paid out EUR 80m to 20,000 agro-food producers since October 15, 2021. ■

### MDV works on new law on civil aviation

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

The Slovak Ministry of Transport and Construction (MDV SR) is preparing a new law on civil aviation, which will also regulate drones. Legislation should better respond to new trends in aviation and at the same time contain a number of new regulations and rules that were gradually introduced within the entire European Union. The new law should be ready in the spring of 2023. ■

### MPSVR SR: Unemployment in SR fell below 6 percent

Tuesday, November 22 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The unemployment rate in Slovakia at the end of October 2022 reached 5.90%. It fell below 6% for the first time in two and a half years. Unemployment fell below 10% in all regions of the Slovak Republic. This was reported by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the SR (MPSVR SR), which launched two new projects aimed at maintaining the trend of reducing unemployment. The first is Practice for young people, which supports people under the age of 29 in applying to the labor market. Another is Activation of disadvantaged job seekers. ■

### S&P kept SR's credit rating at A+

Monday, November 21 | ČIANEWS | [Information Source](#)

The Standard & Poor's (S&P) rating agency has maintained Slovakia's credit rating at A+ with a negative outlook. The agency praises Slovakia's relatively successful security of alternative gas sources, moderate external debt levels and limited balance of payments risk. S&P analysts expect the general government deficit to fall to 3.5% of GDP by 2025 and the general government net debt to remain moderate, stabilising below 60% of GDP by 2025. S&P's analysis suggests that full use of the grants from the Slovak Recovery and Resilience Plan could increase Slovak GDP by 3.4% to 10.9% by 2026. The information was published by the Slovak Ministry of Finance. ■

For your notes

