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Ministerstwo Rozwoju,
Pracy i Technologii

I am glad that despite the crisis caused by Covid-19 Pandemic, foreign companies are successfully implemented in our country successfully. The value of foreign investments in Poland is currently over EUR 236 billion, which is approx. 24% of the capital invested by foreign enterprises in Central and Eastern Europe. Companies with foreign capital are responsible for almost 1/3 of all investment outlays in Poland - said Deputy Minister of Development, Work and Technology and Plenipotentiary of the Government for Foreign Investment Grzegorz Piechowiak.

This proves that - on the background of our neighbors - we have a very good encouragement program Foreign investments. Special economic zones and Polish investment zones are only part of these solutions. Our further actions will focus on the simplification of Polish law and administrative procedures so that every investment in Poland can be implemented even more efficiently - added the MRPIIT deputy.



ONLINE MEETING WITH

GRZEGORZ PIECHOWIAK

Government Plenipotentiary for Foreign Investments

RÉSUMÉ OF THE MEETING

1. What is the general Polish feeling towards investments, done by foreign entities. Is Poland experiencing this as a positive thing, bringing some more oxygen in the Polish fast growing economy or is Poland sceptic towards this?

FDI is considered as a crucial element of the social picture in Poland and the Ministry is trying to encourage foreign investors to make this effort to invest in Poland. Our country is very investor-friendly country. due to very good geographical location, large and absorbed market, highly qualified labour force. Poland is very much willing and hopefully able to attract any foreign companies to invest.

At the Ministry of Development, Labour and Technology the pass is to develop a legal framework that will further increase the potential for investors in Poland. This can be done by reducing the risk for investors and also by promoting different solutions that will intensify to invest in Poland.

The Ministry is working on this and have some tools already in place as for example Polish Investments Zones. There are other system of investments especially for the R&D sector with Government grunts. The Anti-crisis shield which was introduced at the beginning of pandemic, the Ministry have to emphasis that the foreign investors recovered by the shield just like polish companies. The objective was to protect the jobs. Being investor-friendly is a whole mark of the Ministry's approach and attitude.



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2. On 26 Feb. Prime Minister opened consultations of the National Recovery Plan (KPO). The revealed document shows the general key directions for funds' allocation, but the actual allocation process is still unclear. How will the private sector be able to benefit from the Recovery Fund and what would be the process of selecting beneficiaries and their projects?

The National Recovery Plan (KPO) will be coordinated in two levels: national level and the local authority level. Depending on the level it will be a different scale. Private companies will by all means be eligible for example the contractors or sub-contractors. To make it equal, Polish authorities want to ensure that the whole process is transparent so private companies will be chosen by a competition formula.

That's another way that investors will benefit from the program – the aim is to help local authorities prepare land-plots for investments by i.e. connecting of the necessary utilities and also by helping them with special planning. As a result, local authorities will be able to offer better lands to foreign investors.

3. For the past few years the legislative environment in Poland has been extremely dynamic or even turbulent. Law is changing massively and this happens often overnight. Many of these changes are not subject to proper public consultations and/or lack solid impact assessment. In consequence, this creates a huge uncertainty and unpredictability for the business and for investors, and it undermines trust to the state institutions.

How do you view this issue, and how do you plan to change the situation so that we can take our investment decisions and operate our businesses in a more stable, predictable and consultative legal environment?

The complete answer will be sent from the Ministry.

4. The Ministry of Economic Development, Labour and Technology has recently taken over the supervision over Polish Investment and Trade Agency - PAIH. With this change, does the Ministry foresee changes in the system of organization of the Polish economic diplomacy? If yes, which would be the changes?

This transfer of supervisory powers as Special Economic Zones and the PAIH Agency mean that the Ministry can provide a better coordination. The Ministry is trying to achieve a synergy where there is increasing in the role of supervisory body and the actual effectiveness in different pass. By consolidating, Polish economic diplomacy, powered by governmental strategy aim at supporting exports, because this will be a very important factor in how Poland will cope with the result of the pandemic, while the recession is caused.

Basically, the change here is to bring the supervisory aspect into a single body to have this supervision in one location and have all different investments tools in one for both foreign investors and other companies including small and medium-sized enterprises.



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25. How the Government perceives the issue of the availability of green energy and gas for business - the lack of availability of green gas is an investment barrier, because according to global obligations, production companies should be neutral in terms of CO2 emissions until a certain / indicated date. If green energy is not available, companies will have to invest in building a biogas plant themselves, while they could use the money for other investments.

There is work on that in the Ministry of Climate and the solution that is implemented will recover the costs of producing bio-methan, as part of support. This is similar to the regulations in other EU Member States. Solutions like this means that there is a need to raise additional funding or have a support budget. This is not a direct financial bargain on the investors and this solution makes it possible to relatively quickly increase the amount of bio-methan, but the costs will be transferred to the final recipient. Since the Government is aware of the fact that the end customers are vulnerable to price changes, the way to develop this mechanism is to start from the sectors in which transition costs will not be felt that much in the customers for example the transport sector.

This subject should be more developed by the Ministry of Climate.

6. Several recent investments in Poland will require undisputed and internationally accepted proof of using green electricity. Therefore, Poland will have to become a member of the Association of Issuing Bodies (AIB). Without this membership Polish certificates of origin for green electricity have no international value. This will put a lot of Polish companies in a very bad competitive position. When will Poland become member of AIB?

Poland's AIB membership is a topic that's being discussed in Poland along with preparations to transposed directive on promoting the renewable energy sources - RED2. Right now, Polish authorities are in the middle of analysis and talks about developing the optimum participation model for Poland as far as AIB is concerned not just Poland as a country but Poland as a producer. There are also talks about different ways of financing Polish AIB membership. This should be proceeded in the separate legal act that will transpose the origin directive to the Polish law and all of this work should be completed by the end of this year.

7. Is the government planning any taxes or other charges on plastic? Does it plan to assess the impact of such a decision on the attractiveness of Poland for foreign investors?

The Ministry of Climate is not planning to introduce any charge that will be compensated for this new resource of the EU.

The details of that are in the competence of the Ministry of Finance.