

20 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

The first stage of **defrosting** the economy starts today. More people can shop at the same time, the possibility of recreational movement and open access to forests and parks have been restored. Further changes to the restrictions introduced in connection with the coronavirus epidemic will follow the recommendation of the Minister of Health.

Due to the coronavirus epidemic, deadline for submitting **PIT** annual tax returns was extended until the end of May 2020 (actually to June 1).

The **government** has added an amendment to the ordinance on partial lifting of restrictions (relevant from **22nd April**) that says that all public and local government administration offices in Poland are to provide "necessary services to citizens". These are tasks related to:

- registration of marital status
- population records and ID cards
- social assistance
- providing municipal services
- activities of employment offices, including support for entrepreneurs in connection with the SARS-CoV-2 epidemic
- issuing driving licenses
- registration documents and other communication documents
- architectural and construction decisions and other decisions related to development, e.g. regarding environmental protection

President Andrzej Duda pledged that if he keeps his post, there will certainly not be a liquidation of 500 Plus child aid programme and the retirement age will not be raised. "I'm for a **Poland Plus**," he said.

US President **Donald Trump**, in a telephone conversation on Saturday, thanked his Polish counterpart Andrzej Duda for Poland's aid to his country in combating the coronavirus epidemic, the White House reported in a statement. Trump thanked Duda for his commitment to send supplies and Polish doctors to Chicago to help the US fight the coronavirus.

Acc. to Health Ministry spokesman, around 27,000 rapid **coronavirus tests** have arrived in Poland from South Korea. Within a week, they will be distributed among emergency units in Polish hospitals.

Head of the Polish Development Fund (PFR) Paweł Borys said that Poland's **unemployment rate** is rather unlikely to reach above 10 percent in 2020.

Wig20 +0.89% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

ZPPOHiP (Polish shopping centres' owners association) as a part of **GROUP 305** are continuing the informative and solution finding strategy and requesting State to not interfere with the principles of Landlord vs Tenant cooperation.

At the same time, **ZPPhIU** (Retailers Association) warns that in the absence of statutory regulations regarding contracts between tenants and landlords after the opening of shopping centres ("of

course, guaranteeing a fair distribution of costs, adequate to the location of individual groups of entities”), one of the worse scenarios would be decision of the companies to terminate the leases.

PINK submits 5 postulates to the anti-crisis shield:

1. Eliminating the lack of symmetry between tenants and landlords of suspended lease agreements by introducing reliefs for owners
2. Return to industry approvals and final construction works.
3. Tax issues: a) releasing funds from VAT accounts (no permanent budget impact); b) no delays in processing VAT returns / overpayment returns in income tax (no permanent budget impact); c) deferred payment of taxes (no permanent budget impact)
4. Introduction of system solutions in the area of deferral of developer and investment loans.
5. Changes in the scope of art. 15g, so that the condition of having no arrears at the end of the third quarter is considered to be met, if the entrepreneur has a certificate of non-arrears with ZUS and / or tax authorities issued at any later date

The market has seen increase in Start-ups recreation in light of a pandemic reality. Attached weekly updated from **Sierra Business Insights** presenting inspiring firms in drawing strategies of swift and simple implementation in order to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 in their business:

- REDUNIQ – a new payments services, a solution that aims at enabling the online transactional capabilities of retailers and other commercial players that do not have a website or virtual store
- FAST -MP – an app from a Portuguese start-up originally developed to aid restaurants in better managing their queue times in large commercial spaces
- #EntraEmCena – the initiatives launched by Outsystems, a cultural platform, joining artists, brands and private and public firms in a collaborative effort to promote and support the national cultural environment
- Ikea Place – Ikea wants to integrate new designs tools with 3D and AI visual technology in the app
- ASICS – the Japanese sneakers brand recreated its physical presentation into a digital environment
- “Food- Boxes” by Morrisons – UK’s food retailer has launched a new line of its “Food Boxes” offer, with essential products for the creation of meals at home
- Sainsbury’s – closed locations repurposed into logistic hubs
- LEGO – online educational entertainment platforms for children at home

The preliminary **investment volumes** for the CEE region for Q1 2020 have reached ca. €3.7 billion, despite the onset of Covid-19 in CEE at the beginning of March - according to Colliers International latest research report. Poland maintains its leading position in the region with a 48% share of the Q1 volume, followed by Czech Republic with 39%, Slovakia (5%), Romania (4%), Hungary (2%) and Bulgaria (2%).

According to JLL Warsaw Office Market | April 2020 *“Q1 2020 was the best quarter in history of the office investment market in Poland. As many as 8 out of 11 office transactions were concluded in Warsaw, which resulted in office investment volume in Warsaw exceeding €440 million.”*

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 20.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 94
Number of resumed business operations 142
Number of suspended economic activities 88
Number of closed economic activities 63

There will be an issue of **CCC shares**. The company wants to raise up to PLN 0.5 billion.

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 17:00 CET on 20.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **9,453**

Number of fatalities: **362**

Number of recoveries: **1,133**

OTHER

POLAND

- The Polish Ministry of State Assets approved on Monday a takeover of energy firm Energa by Poland's biggest petroleum company PKN Orlen valued at PLN 1.78 billion (EUR 394.2 million)
- The Institute of International Finance (IIF) expects that Poland's GDP growth will shrink by 4.9 percent in 2020
- The value of Poland's pharmaceutical market grew by 30.0 pct y/y and by 23.3 pct m/m to PLN 4.13 bln (EUR 914,051 mln) in March, 2020, according to a report by pharmaceutical researcher PEX PharmaSequence

EUROPE

- The Lithuanian government will subsidise rents. Shopping centres are open in Latvia
- ECE intends to reopen two thirds of all its German centres as of April 20
- Germany has reopened small shops, car dealerships and bicycle stores
- Daimler restarts production across Germany
- UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson told his ministers and advisers his main concern in easing restrictions would be a potential second wave of coronavirus
- Spain's coronavirus death toll rises to over 20,000, but the death toll is a 2% increase — a slower rise than last week's average

WORLD

- Demand for beauty products appears to be holding up even though hundreds of millions of consumers are not leaving their homes in order to combat the coronavirus pandemic, L'Oreal, the world's largest cosmetics company, reported that first quarter sales in China increased 6.4% on the same period last year
- US crude crashed an insane 41% on Monday to as low as \$10.77 a barrel – the weakest level since December 1998
- President Nana Akufo-Addo of Ghana has lifted a three-week lockdown in two cities, citing improved coronavirus testing and the "severe" impact of the restrictions on the poor and vulnerable in the West African nation
- Putin says Russia's coronavirus peak is still ahead
- Hong Kong reports no new coronavirus cases for first time since March 5

FINALLY

Please see answers to the Friday's riddles:

1. Answer: Two dozen. If you increase both the number of hens and the amount of time available four-fold, the number of eggs increases 16 times. $16 \times 1.5 = 24$.
2. Light one of the ropes on fire on both ends *and* light the second rope on one end at the same time. When the first rope burns out, 30 minutes have elapsed. At that exact moment, you light the unlit end of the second rope. Because 30 minutes of the second rope have already been used up, 30 more remain (though this does not necessarily mean that half of the rope's length has been burned, it could be more or less). Lighting the other end at the moment the first rope

burns up will cause the remaining part of the second rope to burn up in 15 minutes. Once the second rope has been consumed by the flames, exactly 45 minutes have passed.

3. Tip the glass of water until the water reaches the rim of the glass and if the water lines up perfectly with the bottom rim of the glass, it is half full. If the water lines below the bottom rim of the glass, then it is less than half full. Likewise, if the water lines above the bottom rim of the glass, it is more than half full.

21 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

The amendment to ACS (1.1) is waiting for the signature of the President of Poland.

The government announces that works are being carried on the **ACS 2.0**.

- Interest subsidy fund
- unblocking the National Board of Appeal
- protecting Polish companies against acquisitions
- loosening the financial rule in local governments

“This week, by Friday, we will present government proposals for further solutions, next versions of the anti-crisis shield” - Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Development Jadwiga Emilewicz

Hopefully, the proposals from the industry will be included (more below).

The **Prime Minister's** teleconference with the **President of the European Council** concerned the necessary EU actions to be an effective and coordinated response to the economic effects of a pandemic. During the conversation, politicians raised, among others issues of EU sanitary security, coordination of EU external actions and the great Community recovery plan. According to the head of the Polish government, this should be a program modelled like the Marshall plan, taking into account the different needs of Member States.

Wig20 -4.06% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

Group 305 (landlords association) and tenants' associations are constantly working on the solution for the market which can be proposed in legislative form.

Three rounds of discussions and negotiations were conducted last week – the representatives from the Ministry of Development (Ministerstwo Rozwoju) as an observer of the process were invited, and present at all videoconferences.

Mrs. Emilewicz announced her presence at tomorrow's videoconference with representatives of landlords and tenants, in order to conclude the outcome of the round table and possibly discuss potential legislative initiatives (if needed). The conference shall start at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Attached Position of Group 305 after the 3rd Round Table (working translation).

PRCH has provided its members with *“Covid-19 and what's next?”* (“re-opening” guidelines) produced by SAFE Shopping Centres with headquarters in Sweden. Please find attached.

Panattoni is building the first modern **multi-tenant distribution centre in the Warmia and Mazury** region (36,000 sqm). One of the factors which made the launch of the project possible was the lease by A&E Clothing, an American company specialising in **textile recycling**, which will take up in excess of 7,500 sqm of office and production space.

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 20.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 467

Number of resumed business operations 665

Number of suspended economic activities 517

Number of closed economic activities 232

Nanovo has created a solution that was created to meet the needs of retail chains after returning to normal operation. Nanovo Care Station is a new type of IoT station that combines the functions of digital communication, distribution of disinfectants and non-contact temperature measurement in one device.

Biedronka and **Glovo** have started official cooperation. Users of the mobile application that provides products on request can now order items from the popular network. The service was launched in ten cities and covered over 100 stores.

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 17:00 CET on 21.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **9,856**

Number of fatalities: **401**

Number of recoveries: **1,297**

OTHER

POLAND

- Chef and restaurateur Damian Wawrzyniak has gone from managing Michelin-starred kitchens to baking bread for delivery to adapt to the pandemic lockdown
- According to data released by the Central Statistical Office (GUS), industrial production in March fell by 2.3 percent y/y and increased by 2.4 percent m/m
- A team of Polish medics from the Military Institute of Medicine (WIM) will take part in a medical training mission in Slovenia from Wednesday to Friday to exchange know-how in aiding victims of the coronavirus epidemic with their Slovenian colleagues
- Minister of National Defence Mariusz Błaszczak confirmed that the Polish doctors will fly to Chicago on Wednesday as part of the medical mission to help the US fight the coronavirus

EUROPE

- Updated from Germany: Since yesterday shops until 800 sqm are permitted to open in most federal states, Bavaria will follow next week. In some federal states, it is permitted to reduce the original size to 800sqm by closing parts of the store. Then the remaining 800sqm can be open. Shops in shopping centres are permitted to open as well (depending on the federal state, for example in Bavaria shopping malls are closed). Restaurants are still closed with the chance to sell take away
- UK: *“Only one in five Britons will hit the shops as soon as quarantine restrictions end, but more than half of us expect to be back on the high street within two weeks, according to a*

survey of how citizens are coping in lockdown". <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/few-will-look-for-solace-in-retail-therapy-when-coronavirus-lockdown-ends-j6gldl0z2?shareToken=fe2faf50fb14ab09f68273d6419cda9f>

- Austria's Minister of Tourism Elisabeth Koestinger said she was looking into allowing tourists from Germany and other countries that have controlled the pandemic to visit Austria
- Spain's prime minister Pedro Sánchez will propose the creation of a European recovery fund of up to €1.5 trillion at an upcoming meeting of the European Council
- The city of Munich has cancelled Oktoberfest 2020

WORLD

- The traditional Russian military parade held annually on May 9th in Moscow will not take place this year because of the coronavirus pandemic
- Uber uses pandemic crisis to expand delivery services - the first, called Direct, would handle the delivery of retail packages, while the second would create a platform for peer-to-peer packages deliveries that families and friends could use to send items to each other
- Oil prices are still crashing after a stunning collapse Monday that saw US crude futures plunge below zero for the first time in history
- The pain in oil markets is carrying over to stocks, with Asian and European indexes, and US stock futures, all in the red on Tuesday

22 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

CRISIS MANAGEMENT

CORRECTION: On 17th April, President Duda signed the **ACS 2.0** (in previous daily news, it was called 1.1) The legislation is in force from 18th April. The amendments are mainly extending the entities eligible to apply for state's support:

- Wider scope of entities entitled to exemption from ZUS contributions
- Obligation to maintain employment after the period of receiving supplementary GEBF (Guaranteed Employee Benefits Fund) funding / funding afforded to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, is lifted
- Greater flexibility in cutting working hours for employees benefiting from GEBF supplementary financing
- Furlough scheme extended for persons working on civil-law contracts and the self-employed
- Facilitation of initial and periodic health and safety training
- Prime minister authorized to decree a day off

Anti-Crisis Shield act numbering clarification:

- **ACS 1.0** – signed by the President on 31.03 and in force from 1.04
- **ACS 2.0** – signed by the President on 17.04 and in force from 18.04 (Sierra Balmain was using number of 1.1, the amendments are mainly extending already in place supports/solutions, however due to widely spread 2.0 numbering in the press and among lawyers, the new numbering is applied in order to decrease confusion for the reader)
- **ACS 3.0** – there is no document formulated yet, but as announced by Deputy PM Emilewicz, new amendments are to be announced on Friday

The European Commission announced today that a **loan and guarantee program** in Poland worth **PLN 500 million** (around EUR 110 million) to support the economy affected by the coronavirus pandemic is approved.

ELECTIONS 2020

Deputy PM and Minister of State Assets Jacek Sasin has confirmed that Polish Security Printing Works has already started to print **ballot papers**. Lawyers are wondering if the order to print ballot papers in the presidential election is a violation of the Electoral Code and a violation of the COVID-19 pandemic act.

OTHER

Marek Lusztyn, who has been the president of **Pekao** bank for five months, has suddenly resigned. Leszek Skiba, the new president, was the deputy finance minister who recently joined the bank. Mr. Lusztyn remains in Pekao and will return to his previous position: vice president responsible for risk management.

Poland's economic growth will decline to minus 1.7 percent in 2020, the ratings agency **Fitch** said in its latest forecast, cutting its previous growth estimate of minus 0.6 percent.

The **welfare index**, which reflects the economic condition of Polish society, went down by 2.0 points month on month in April 2020.

Wig20 +2.01% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

The government (PM Morawiecki, Deputy PM Emilewicz, Minister of Health Szumowski and Deputy Minister of Health Pinkas) and the industry (PRCH, Grupa 305, POHiD) representatives held a consultation meeting regarding safety of **re-opening the stores** in shopping centres.

The government is expecting the suggested final version of the safety protocol by Friday. If only that step would be one of the many to build constructive relationship government vs industry...

Moreover, further discussions on the line government – industry is planned including landlords, tenants and banks.

Meanwhile, biggest legal practices in Poland are providing regular and very useful insights on the current market situation in light of state support/solutions.

Selected publications:

Dentons: [COVID-19 Impact on performance of lending transactions in Poland](#)

Greenberg Traurig: [Poland's 'Crisis Shield' Act Now in Effect, Affording Tax Relief and Support to Businesses](#)

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 22.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 453

Number of resumed business operations 597

Number of suspended economic activities 400

Number of closed economic activities 251

'The **CCC Group** has reopened in Poland about 100 stores outside shopping centres. More will be opened gradually' - announced Jakub Grzelak, sales director of CCC and said 'We'll see how quickly this indicator will recover. An important indication for further actions will also be for us consumer behaviour and their purchasing decisions'. CCC expects that - at least at the beginning - store traffic will be much lower than before the crisis.

H&M announced today opening of 4 stores in Poland (the ones located on the street - in Katowice, Zakopane, Wrocław and Sopot).

The net loss of **Grupa Żywiec** in the first quarter of 2020 amounted to PLN 34.9 million.

Hebe, a drugstore chain of the Jeronimo Martins group, due to a decrease in sales, laid off about 20 employees at the company's headquarters in Warsaw.

Acc. to the Central Statistical Office (**GUS**), Poland's **retail sales** decreased in real terms by 9.0 percent year on year and by 3.3 percent month on month in March 2020. In current prices, sales decreased by 7.1 percent year on year in March against a 1.6 percent expected growth.

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 18:00 CET on 22.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **10,169**

Number of fatalities: **426**

Number of recoveries: **1,513**

The **Chief Sanitary Inspector** recommended the application of **ProteGO Safe**, which will help control and stop the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 diseases.

Tests confirmed coronavirus infections for another seven people working at the **Polanki Nursing Home** in Gdańsk. So far, 15 clients and 11 employees has been diagnosed with COVID-19. During the last 24 hours, two residents died.

OTHER

POLAND

- The fire is destroying the Biebrza National Park areas - six thousand hectares are estimated to have been burnt so far
- Poland's largest power producer PGE has withdrawn from investment projects, planned for the 2020-2024 period and valued at over PLN 1.0 billion (EUR 220.8 million), due to the coronavirus pandemic
- PLL LOT is halting investments, lowering wages and negotiating with leasing companies to optimise aircraft contracts, as part of its measures to survive the crisis

EUROPE

- For the first time in years, Greece's tax revenue is projected to fall below €70bn
- Spanish PM Sánchez said that Spain will slowly ease its nationwide lockdown in the second half of May
- All of Germany's states have announced plans to make face masks compulsory to combat the spread of coronavirus

WORLD

- Major cities that suffer from the world's worst air pollution have seen reductions of deadly particulate matter by up to 60% from the previous year, during a three-week lockdowns period
- The Trump administration ordered Chevron to halt oil production in Venezuela, dealing another blow to the American oil giant's century-long relationship with the crisis-ravaged OPEC nation
- Global oil prices bounce back after hitting 21-year low - US oil climbed more than 22% to \$14.13 per barrel

- More than 70,000 extra troops will be deployed in South Africa to help enforce a lockdown intended to stop the spread of coronavirus

FINALLY

Did you know grapes light on fire in the microwave?

Back in 2011, a physicist at the University of Sydney went viral after he placed a grape in the microwave and filmed the fiery aftermath. And oddly enough, scientists couldn't explain the phenomenon until quite recently. A March 2019 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences reported that the fruity fireball occurs as a result of the loose electrons and ions that cluster to form plasma when grapes get hot.

23 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

Seems that Deputy PM Emliwicz is gradually revealing cards re new support (**ACS 3.0?**) in different press interviews. Picked up proposed ideas:

- rent subsidies for families and housing companies that will allow you to build cheaper apartments
- introduction of a subsidy fund to the interest rate of Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego
- strengthening companies with Polish capital
- increasing the advance possibilities for public procurement contractors
- loosening the expenditure rule for local government officials

Unprecedented mess in relation of **Presidential Election 2020**. The legislation re postal voting is still not enacted, but the voting cards are being printed on the request of Minister of State's Assets and Poczta Polska (without any legal ground) is requesting database of voters and voting boxes from local authorities – in fact refuse to deliver without legal ground. On top of that, there are unofficial information that Poczta Polska does not have essential infrastructure to carry out some of the tasks as National Electoral Commission (which in case of the new legislation being approved, losses most of the power and authority over the election process). At the same time, Polish embassy in UK announced list of voting places in Great Britain for the standard election, i.e. in person (unless new legislation is in place) – guys did you consult that with UK government?!

In connection with the fire in the **Biebrza National Park**, the head of government decided to transfer over PLN 6 million in total for rescue, which is from the National Fund for Environmental Protection and from the prime minister's reserve - said government spokesman Piotr Müller.

A draft amendment to the provisions of the Regulation of the Council of Ministers of April 19, 2020 to clarify the procedure for **national government cooperation with province governors** in the field of product exports.

Wig20 +1.31% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

According to Rzeczpospolita newspaper, the stores in shopping centres are to be open on **18th May** – unofficial info.

Ministry of Development provided the draft of **the protocol for re-opening of the stores in shopping centre** for further consultation with the industry (led by PRCH).

Most of the protocol is acceptable by the landlords with expectations (comments were provided to the ministry):

1. Solutions that enable malls STLs to operate, but only with the appropriate rules
2. Inability to implement very expensive (PLN 150 million - 500 million nationwide) thermal imaging cameras for temperature measurement, especially in such a short period and the current economic situation of landlords and tenants, while still possible measurement errors and problems of GDPR.
3. The procedure of fulfilling the health and safety protocol: we assume that the guidelines tell clients not to come feeling unwell, but the question of how to proceed - to be clarified.

The **PMI index** for euro area services fell to 11.7 points, for industry to 33.6 points. As a result, the combined Composite PMI index has reached a record low of 13.5 points.

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 22.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 462
Number of resumed business operations 800
Number of suspended economic activities 452
Number of closed economic activities 235

Before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the monthly revenues from sales of the **Primark** network were around 750 million euros. They have now fallen to zero.

The gastronomic company **Sfinks Polska**, which includes the restaurant chains Sphinx, Piwiarnia Warki, Chłopskie Jadło, Fabryka Pizzy and WOOK, has launched two new brands - KEBAPI and YOLO Chicken. They are only available in the delivery channel.

Płock, Rzeszów, Bydgoszcz, Toruń, Olsztyn and Lublin - in these cities from Wednesday, April 22, through the Glovo application, you will be able to buy products from the **Biedronka** network. The number of Biedronka branch outlets delivering e-shopping in the Glovo system has exceeded 200 in 16 Polish cities.

P4, the operator of the Play mobile network, has signed a preliminary agreement to acquire 100 % shares in **Virgin Mobile Polska** for **PLN 60.7 million**. Now the company is waiting for the approval of UOKiK.

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 16:00 CET on 23.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **10,346**

Number of fatalities: **435**

Number of recoveries: **1,740**

OTHER

POLAND

- A further number of young patients were granted permission to fly to the US for specialised medical treatment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced
- Two Border Guard PZL-Kania helicopters and a PZL-104 Wilga plane have joined efforts to contain a massive fire that has raged in the north-eastern Polish Biebrza National Park since Sunday
- Officials from the US weapons industry have assured that, at the moment, the coronavirus situation is not affecting orders for Poland, including the production of F-35 combat aircraft
- Acc. to the National Bank of Poland (NBP), Poland's M3 money supply grew in March 2020 by 11.8 percent year on year and by 3.1 percent month on month to PLN 1.63 trillion (EUR 359 billion)
- Acc. to the Central Statistical Office (GUS), Poland's consumer sentiment notably deteriorated in April from its March level as the indicator of current consumer confidence (BWUK) fell by 37.7 percentage points to minus 36.4 points
- PLN 4 million from Philip Morris Polska for the fight against coronavirus.

EUROPE

- As many as half of the people who have died from Covid-19 in Europe were residents in long-term care facilities, according to estimates from the World Health Organization
- Scientists in the UK will begin trials of a potential Covid-19 vaccine on humans Thursday, as the government warns it could have to rely on social distancing measures until next year assuming no vaccine or treatment is found before then
- Bundesliga 'ready to return on 9 May', says German Football League
- On Thursday's feast of Saint George, that is, on the name day of Pope Francis, the Vatican sends respirators at his request to hospitals in Italy, Romania and Spain.
- Comarch announced the signing of an agreement on April 23 to purchase all shares in the company Cabinet Conseil En Strategie Informatique S.A.S. based in Cergy, France (2CSI). This company provides IT solutions and services for medical entities on the French market.

WORLD

- US stocks are in the green for a second day in a row
- The New York Stock Exchange might reopen in phases after May 15
- South Korea's economy just recorded its most severe contraction since the 2008 financial crisis as the coronavirus pandemic weighed on consumer demand and exports
- United Airlines, whose shares have plummeted in value by 68% in the last nine weeks, is planning to raise \$1 billion by selling additional shares of its badly battered stock
- Air pollution in northern India has hit a 20-year low, NASA report says

FINALLY



April 23 is Saint George's Day.

St. George, patron of England (useful info if you want to pass "Life in UK" test).

Did you know that today is St. Wojciech "day", patron of Poland, as well? Yep, he didn't kill the dragon... but was killed himself.

24 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

The government has decided that **schools, kindergartens and creches** will remain **closed in Poland until May 24** due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Primary and secondary school final **exams have been rescheduled**. Primary school students will sit for their final exams between June 16 and 18. Secondary school final graduation (Matura) exams required to enter university-level education will begin on June 8 and continue till the end of June, solely in a written form

The **ban on air traffic** on Polish territory was extended until May 9. PM Morawiecki has already signed the regulation.

The **Ministry of Digitization** has announced the launch of the **eSkrzynka** service on Friday, which allows to receive registered mail without leaving home. "The only thing you need is a trusted profile" - emphasized the resort.

There is still no clear information on the date of **reopening of shopping malls**, but Deputy PM and Minister of Development Emilewicz assures that special **security protocols** for trade, which will be implemented before reopening, are ready.

Acc. to the Central Statistical Office (GUS), Poland's **unemployment rate** fell to 5.4 percent in March 2020 from 5.5 percent in February.

Wig20 -1.49% (update: 17:00 CET)

INDUSTRY

Further negotiations are being carried among **landlords, tenants and banks** (or maybe a bank?). The current proposal pushed by tenants is very unfavourable. There is very strong preference for the government to leave retailers and landlords to work the solutions out among themselves.

Sierra Balmain is very strongly involved in the whole process reassuring the best possible interest of the all landlords.

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 24.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 410

Number of resumed business operations 826

Number of suspended economic activities 393

Number of closed economic activities 208

Gap stops paying rents and warns it might not have enough cash for operations, and must take further action to find liquidity over the next 12 months, such as additional job cuts and new debt financing.

More layoffs in **Agora**. Publisher closes monthly "Logo" and "Avanti".

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 17:00 CET on 24.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **10,759**

Number of fatalities: **463**

Number of recoveries: **1,944**

The number of passengers traveling by **subway** returns to normal. On Thursday, 107k people used it, which is the same number as the day before the epidemic was announced.

OTHER

POLAND

- Jens Stoltenberg, the Nato secretary general, has praised the deployment of Polish military medical staff to the USA to assist American doctors in their fight against the pandemic
- The permanent stationing of a US general in Poland will strengthen the presence of US forces in the country, National Security Bureau (BBN) head Pawel Soloch said in connection with the expected nomination of a Polish-stationed US Army colonel to general's rank
- Acc. to the Central Statistical Office (GUS), the wholesale sales of Poland's trading firms grew by 4 percent year on year in March 2020 and by 11.1 percent month on month

EUROPE

- EU leaders approved the launch of loan instruments, agreed by EU finance ministers, worth EUR 540 billion to help combat the economic crisis and obliged the European Commission to prepare a proposal for the creation of a European Reconstruction Fund to support the European Union following the crisis caused by COVID-19
- France has banned the online sale of nicotine products and limited their sale in pharmacies, after researchers suggested that nicotine may play a role in protecting against coronavirus

WORLD

- Virgin Orbit's ventilator design has been granted Emergency Use Authorization by the US FDA, allowing the company to begin delivering the first 100 units to hospitals within the next few days
- Indonesia has temporarily banned domestic road, air and sea travel starting Friday to prevent the spread of coronavirus, as millions of Muslims mark the start of the holy month of Ramadan
- China's space agency revealed the name (Tianwen 1) of its first Mars exploration mission on Friday, and said the mission is on track to take place in the coming months
- Global stocks slumped Friday after a study into a potential coronavirus treatment was halted following inconclusive results
- US consumer sentiment dropped 26% year-over-year this month, and 19% from March, according to the final results of a University of Michigan survey

FINALLY



And remember: your weekends need to feel different from your weekdays, so don't forget to do something extra fun and relaxing (but safe of course)!