

Despite the Anti-Crisis Shield Act (ASC1) being in place for a week now retailers are still attempting to strike individual deals and create demands on landlords to alter the terms of their now frozen leases. In the minds of some groups, it is as if the Act isn't there but the leases still are, all going to show the unsuitability of the measures for all parties. The government has now started the process of refining the legislation with an amendment referred to generally as Anti-Crisis Shield 2 (ACS2).

The amendments, amongst other things, cover enhanced salary support for companies up to 49 people (previously limited to 9), state backed liquidity loans, and changes to allow the government wide powers to track individual mobile phone locations, anonymising all but those that are identified as infected or previously infected. The data access will go back one week if passed. This follows China's successful use of personal tracking in controlling the virus using a wide variety of technology applications, but will raise many civil liberty questions at the same time. The affordability of the additional ACS2 measures will also come into question as to how these can be funded particularly as the Polish government has a constitutional cap of 60% of debt to GDP so the ability to issue bonds or raise other debt will be tested.

There is also discussion as to whether the ACS legislation is in breach of international law and whether international investors have been disadvantaged and can sue. [Here](#) is an article discussing it.

In an environment where in the first 5 days of April alone, [7,400 companies in Poland applied to suspend trading](#) all this confusion still has some way to go.

7 April 2020

GOVERNMENT / STATE NEWS

In the Monday's late-evening voting the lower house passed a legislation regarding **postal ballot** in the upcoming presidential election. The act says that the postal vote will be the only possible way to take part in presidential elections. It also gives the Sejm Speaker the power to change the election date during the state of epidemic. Still, the new date has to be in line with guidelines set by the Constitution, which means that 17 May is the latest possible moment. Until now the change of election date was possible only due to introduction of state of emergency.

The government prepared amendments to the **anti-crisis shield** package, however further changes are planned to be introduced after Easter. The act will be voted in the parliament (Sejm) later today. New proposals of the government are available at:

<https://www.gov.pl/web/tarczaantykrzysowa/rozszerzamy-tarcze-antykrzysowa-nowych-rozwiazan-dla-firm-pracownikow-i-rolnikow>

Michał Woś, Minister of Environment, has confirmed that he recovered and was tested negative on the coronavirus.

Wig20 +1,42% (update: 17:15 CET)

INDUSTRY

Polish Chamber of Insurance has published customer oriented recommendations for its members due to COVID-19 pandemic. Details are available at: https://piu.org.pl/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Rekomendacje_proklienckie_PIU_covid19-1.pdf

According to the report by Avison Young, throughout the first quarter of 2020, **total transaction volume** on the commercial real estate market in Poland exceeded EUR 2.4 billion. More than 60% (EUR 1.4 billion) of the total transaction volume was generated on the industrial market. Retail sector accounted for 6% of the total transaction volume.

The overdue payments of Polish industry sector increased to PLN 896 million. The highest debt is noted in metal industry.

Group 305 - the new initiative taken by the industry outside of the PRCH and led by Rafal Sonik (Gemini Holding) has started PR action and discussions with **Retailers Association (ZPPHiU)**.

List of shopping centre owners supporting the proposal:

Acteeum, EPP, NGI, Agile, Gemini Holding, P.A. Nova, Bleu City, Immofinanz, Pradera, Capital Park, Invesco, Rank Progress, CD Locum, Millenium Hall, Retail Concept, Ceetrus, Mitiska Reim, Saller, CPI Poland, MMG, Sierra Balmain, Cromwell Property Group, Napollo, Trei RE / Vendo Park, Dekada, Neinver, Echo Investment, Nepi Rockcastle

Similar actions have been undertaken in Ukraine [read here](#)

RETAILERS AND SMALL BUSINESS MATTERS

CENTRAL REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION ON BUSINESS (as per 07.04.2020):

Number of registered business activities 415

Number of resumed business operations 517

Number of suspended economic activities 1903

Number of closed economic activities 354

Zalando has entered into strategic cooperation with **Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield** within the framework of the Connected Retail program. The partnership enables URW to connect to Europe's largest online fashion platform, reach new customers through Zalando and improve inventory turnover at participating brands.

After being criticized for its decision to defer rental payments, **Adidas** apologized for saying it would halt rent payments for retail locations globally that had to shutter due to COVID-19 lockdowns and that it would pay for April (in countries where lease agreements have not been suspended...).

Some grocers and big chains started to deploy **robots** to clean floors, stock shelves and deliver groceries to shoppers during the coronavirus.

CIVIL NEWS AND REACTIONS

Epidemiological status in Poland data from 17:00 CET on 06.04.2020

Number of confirmed cases SARS-CoV-2: **4,848**

Number of fatalities: **129**

Number of recoveries: **191**

OTHER

EUROPE

- Authorities in Paris have banned exercise outside during the day (in force between 10:00 and 19:00 local time)
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson has been moved to intensive care in hospital after his coronavirus symptoms "worsened"

WORLD

- Tesla engineers are building ventilators for coronavirus patients out of car parts, also Virgin Orbit have been working around the clock on the design and development of a simple, low-cost and highly scalable bridge ventilator
- Global stocks and US futures advanced on Tuesday on hopes that the coronavirus crisis may be easing in some of the places that have been hit hardest
- The recent stock market rally is taking place at the same time the United States dollar is weakening against the euro and other major currencies
- China reported no coronavirus deaths on Tuesday, the first time since it started publishing daily figures in January, but... New York recorded its highest single-day increase in virus deaths on Tuesday

FINALLY

BREAKING: Two people found sunbathing in Scotland today have tested positive for hypothermia!