

Economic Bulletin

Government on ecological farms

Less red tape in setting up of ecological farms and the development of ecological produce are the guidelines of a draft bill on ecological agriculture that has recently been adopted by the government. A person willing to run the ecological farm will have to submit only one application to a single certificating institution. In order to prevent irregularities each product labelled as ecological and launched on the market will have to be produced by a producer supervised by the certificating institution.

Any type of forgery will be penalized with fines, under the draft bill. Penalties will be imposed on producers launching on the market means for ecological production or plant protection means unfit for this type of production.

The fine will also be imposed if a product is labelled “ekologiczny”, “bio” or “eko” but fails to meet criteria authorising it to be used by ecological agriculture.

Poland will receive 17 bln PLN of EU funds in 2009

This year at least 17 billion zlotys of EU funds will be transferred to the Polish economy, Regional Development Minister Elżbieta Bieńkowska told a news conference here Wednesday. She added that since the programme launching till March 9 a total of 26.4 billion zlotys worth of applications were approved. Bieńkowska stressed that said money account for a substantial element of the “plan of stability and development.” The plan, adopted by the government at the start of December, envisages that by the end of 2009 Poland will spend the minimum of 16.8 billion zlotys from EU funds. By 2013 more than EUR 67 bln will be available for Poland.

Google: Polish Internet market worth USD 7 bln

The Polish Internet market is worth USD 7 bln and the market of Internet ads is estimated at nearly USD 1 mln, Google

■ The Monetary Policy Council (RPP) on Wednesday cut all interests rates by 25 base points. The central bank (NBP) reference rate will now stand at 3.75 percent. The RPP decision means that the 7-day intervention rate will be not lower than 3.75 percent, the lombard rate will be not lower than 5.25 percent, the rediscount rate will be not lower than 4.0 percent and the deposit rate not lower than 2.25 percent.

■ The unemployment rate rose to 10.9 percent in February from 10.5 pct in January 2009, Central Statistical Office (GUS) reported on Tuesday. There were 1 million 718.8 thousand jobless registered by labour offices at the end of February, GUS said.

■ Investment outlays grew by 8.8 percent in 2008 against the 2007 figure, Central Statistical Office GUS reported on Tuesday. According to the report, total investment outlays in 2008 stood at 105,117.6 million zlotys.

■ Retail sales went down 1.6 percent year-on-year in February after a 1.3 percent y/y growth in January, the Central Statistical Office GUS announced on Tuesday. In February, retail sales fell 1.6 percent month-on-month.

■ The number of flats commissioned in February 2009 fell by 5.8 percent from January 2008 to 10,339, the Central Statistical Office (GUS) reported on Tuesday. The number of

CEO for EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa) Nikesh Arora has said. Arora added that the Polish Internet market means „nearly 40 mln people of which 50 pct have access to Internet. This market is worth USD 7 mln “This is a very good market from the point of view of ads,” he stressed.

The value of the internet ads in Poland in 2008 totalled PLN 1.17 bln, indicates research by Pricewaterhouse-Coopers (PwC) and IAB Polska.

flats commissioned in February fell by 47.1 percent month-on-month, GUS reported. The number of flats commissioned in the two months of 2009 amounted to 29,880, up 16.6 pct against the corresponding period of 2008.

■ New orders in industry fell by 17 pct year-on-year in February after a 19.2 pct fall in January, the Central Statistical Office GUS reported Tuesday. Month-on-month orders fell by 5.3 pct in February against a 11.3 pct fall in January.

Most Poles for euro adoption

Fifty three percent of respondents to a recent CBOS poll are for switching zloty with euro and 38 pct stands firmly by the Polish national currency.

Sixty nine percent would like to see euro in circulation as soon as possible, that means, in line with the government expectations between 2012 and 2013, CBOS wrote in a commentary sent to PAP on Friday.

Twenty six percent of euro supporters opted for a later date, it was written.

Men account for 59 pct of euro supporters, women for 48 pct. The new currency is impatiently awaited by young people aged between 18 and 24 (62 pct), residents of cities (73 pct), university-level educated (77 pct) and well-off Poles of monthly income above PLN 1,500 (81 pct).

As regards professions euro is welcome by managers and experts (79 pct), white collars (68 pct.) businessmen (71 pct), school and university students (66 pct). Euro is the least wanted by people above 65 (52 pct), village inhabitants (48 pct) and worst-off of monthly income of up to PLN 750 per capita (51 pct).

The poll was run on March 4–10, 2009 on a representative sample of 979 adult Poles.

1 USD = 3.40 PLN

1 EUR = 4.58 PLN

TRANSPORT

PKP Cargo wants to purchase a carrier on a German market. Despite difficult financial situation the firm plan to assign up to PLN 250 mln in 2009 for investments.

WORK

Nokia Siemens Networks plans to employ additional 200-400 IT and telecommunication experts in the Wrocław-based Software Development Centre. Now Nokia Siemens Networks employs 1200 workers.

TRANSPORT

The management board of LOT Polish Airlines decided to liquidate Centralwings, a subsidiary offering charter services, LOT spokesman told PAP Thursday. Centralwings was set up in August, 2004.

FINANCE

Banks operating in Poland issued more than 10 million credit cards by the end of 2008, according to estimates of Bankier.pl. Credit cards are offered by most universal banks and the earning threshold fell in some institutions below PLN 700 monthly.

TOURISM

Zachodniopomorskie Province in northwest Poland wants to attract Scandinavians to its golffields near Szczecin, Miedzyzdroje and Choszczno. The offer was presented recently at fairs in Malmö and Goeteborg. There are more than 800 thousand golfers in Scandinavia and we want at least some to visit our fields, Zachodniopomorskie official Witold Jablonski told a press conference in Szczecin.